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# THE TIMES

No 64,421

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 1992

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY  
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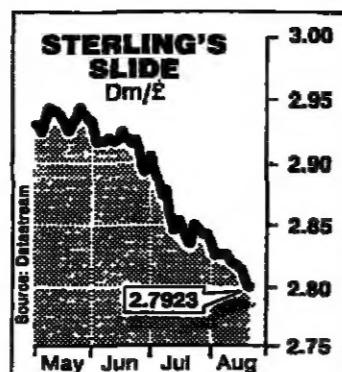
Reserves held ready as fear of French 'no' to Maastricht sends markets tumbling

## Banks prepare to prop up sterling

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
IN LONDON AND  
SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH  
IN PARIS

THE pound fell to a new low against the German mark yesterday after a French opinion poll showed for the first time a majority against ratification of the Maastricht treaty. While three other French polls showed a slim majority in favour of the treaty on European union, all four polls show an increase in the number of voters who oppose the treaty.

The central banks of the European Community, including the Bank of England and the Bundes-



bank, are this morning poised to defend the pound and other currencies in the European exchange-rate mechanism against the ad-

vance of the German mark. The pound dropped half a pfennig when news emerged of the first French poll, falling to DM2.8012, a whisker away from DM2.7780, its absolute ERM floor against the mark. If forced to its lower limit, the Bank of England, backed by the Bundesbank, could use billions of pounds of reserves to support sterling.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will today be faced with only two options to defend the pound; either interest rates must go up or there must be massive intervention in the markets. The latter is more likely. Shares slumped in the wake of the French survey, losing 50 points at one stage but closing 30 points down on the day. "We are heading

for a crisis with the Bundesbank versus the rest," Paul Chertkow, head of global currency research at UBS Phillips & Drew, said.

John Major and Mr Lamont, who met for breakfast yesterday, are now resigned to a series of upheavals for the pound in the run-up to the French referendum on September 20. Officials were keen to emphasise, however, that the prime minister and the Chancellor did not review ERM policy nor did they intend to react to market gyrations.

Senior government sources were also reduced to having to dismiss a wave of rumours in the City of London that the Chancellor had resigned. It was, they said, the fevered and sometimes deliberate fabrication of "sharks" who seek to

manipulate the markets. Despite the government's studied calm yesterday, Tory MPs remain jittery about the Chancellor's prospects of staving off higher interest rates.

Dealers are nervous that if the French should vote against Maastricht, the pattern of European exchange and interest rates would unravel. Britain would have great difficulty in keeping its interest rates as close as they are at present to those of the much stronger German economy and British loans and mortgages would become more expensive.

The first of the four French opinion polls on the Maastricht referendum showed that 51 per cent of respondents oppose the treaty and 49 per cent would vote for the deal. The survey was carried out by BVA.

for *Paris-Match* and A2 and FR3, two state-owned television stations, among a sample of 1,004 people. All the respondents, who were interviewed by telephone on Sunday and Monday, were over 18 and on the electoral register.

The last survey carried out by BVA at the end of July showed that voters would ratify the treaty by 56 per cent to 44 per cent. The polling organisation said that support for the treaty had fallen from a peak of 65 per cent in mid-June.

A second poll, to be published this morning by *L'Express* magazine, shows a 2 per cent majority

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Holiday bargains, page 2  
Letters, page 11  
Maastricht worries, page 15

## Carrington resigns on eve of Yugoslavia conference

By MICHAEL BINION AND NICHOLAS WOOD

ON THE eve of the London conference on Yugoslavia, Lord Carrington, the former Nato secretary-general who has headed the European Community peace effort for the past year, announced yesterday that he was resigning.

He said in a terse statement that he could no longer devote to the conference "the full-time effort which will obviously be necessary and will extend over a considerable period". He had, however, been asked, and had agreed, to continue to be associated with the conference.

Lord Carrington had become increasingly weary with his fruitless shuttle diplomacy. Douglas Hurd, the for-

mer Nato secretary-general, said yesterday that there are strong candidates from other countries.

Nato failed to agree on a military plan to protect relief convoys in the former Yugoslavia and the alliance said yesterday that it would wait until after the conference to look at the options again. A spokesman said after a four-hour meeting of Nato ambassadors that they had considered various plans.

The government made clear that Serbia would be made an "international pariah" if it did not abandon its war of conquest. Downing Street sources underlined John Major's determination to put pressure on the Serbs after a meeting of ministers held shortly after the prime minister's return from holiday.

The government's chief concern is that the Serbs will reject Mr Major's demands for a ceasefire and a return to "civilised behaviour". The prime minister fears a walk-out and is ready to counter such action by pressing the United States, Russia and the EC to tighten economic sanctions against the Serbs. Mr Major met Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, to press for Moscow's support. The prime minister remains opposed to military intervention.

More than a hundred journalists have been caught in the crossfire in the Yugoslav civil war. Twenty-seven have been killed. Photograph, page 14

sign secretary, said yesterday that any settlement emerging from the conference and its follow-up in Geneva would be based on the groundwork Lord Carrington had laid.

Lord Owen, the former Social Democrat leader, was tipped to succeed him. The possibility of his appointment was being discussed last night by EC foreign ministers at a dinner at Lancaster House hosted by Mr Hurd.

Both Downing Street and the Foreign Office refused to speculate on the nomination of the former Labour foreign secretary, who has urged military intervention by Nato to stop the fighting in the Balkans. A successor to Lord Carrington could come from any of the EC member states.

Sanctions bite, page 8  
Balkan debate, page 10  
Diary, page 10  
Letters, page 11



Accidental eavesdropper: Cyril Reenan peers at the press from his home yesterday

## Hurricane forces thousands to evacuate New Orleans

By DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HUNDREDS of thousands of people fled their homes in Louisiana yesterday as Hurricane Andrew continued to churn across the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans, a total of 1.7 million people have been advised to leave the state and Mississippi.

Three hundred thousand of New Orleans' half million inhabitants have left and another 500,000 have abandoned other lowland areas of Louisiana. New Orleans, which lies eight feet below sea level, is protected by a series of levees built to contain water from the Mississippi and Lake Pontchartrain. It was feared that if Andrew hit the river, water could be forced into the lake and if that burst its banks, the city would be flooded.

Traffic was jammed on the main road north out of the city across the Pontchartrain Bridge which crosses the the

lake. Repairs reduced it to one lane. New Orleans has mounted a "vertical evacuation", moving residents into high-rise buildings. Police said they saw everything from bread lorries loaded with furniture to vehicles filled with children, pets and mattresses.

The hurricane lost almost no power during its 60-mile journey across south Miami and the Everglades. Soon after crossing into the gulf forecasters said Andrew's 20-mile-wide eye was moving fast at 18 mph with winds blowing up to 138 mph.

A vast clean-up operation has begun across south Miami where at least 12 people were killed and an estimated 50,000 people left homeless. Police say that the final death toll could reach 20 and sniffer dogs were yesterday looking for bodies in the rubble of Florida City and Homestead, two of the worst affected areas

about 20 miles south of Miami. Officials estimate damage at \$15-20 billion and are looking to Washington and the private sector for help. The local First Union bank has offered \$1 billion in loans to victims.

More than half a million people were still without electricity yesterday and authorities say it could be days, even weeks, before power is restored. Many areas also lack water and authorities are trying to distribute litre bottles of drinking water. Temperatures rose to 90F yesterday making conditions even more difficult.

A night-time curfew across the region was in force again last night to prevent looting. Police said they arrested 37 people for theft on Monday night.

Traffic police controlled entry to badly hit areas in

Continued on page 14, col 6

The commission was sur-

## Scientists go in to bowl for England

By ALAN HAMILTON

SCIENTISTS at the University of Hertfordshire have set up a research project to crack the code of an enemy secret weapon that has inflicted great damage on England. Using computers, wind tunnels, the laws of aerodynamics and a large number of cricket balls, they will attempt to discover exactly how the Pakistani bowlers Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram achieve their devastating reverse swing.

Final-year students in aerospace engineering at the university, formerly Hatfield Polytechnic, will be set to work on the project when they return for the new term in October. They hope to have an answer by May, in good time for next year's first-class season.

Andrew Lewis, a lecturer more used to teaching the principles of aircraft performance and stability, decided to seek a scientific explanation after his depart-

ment had received calls from newspapers wanting to know how Waqar and Younis achieved such odd trajectories with the ball. "We tried to get the answer from the horse's mouth, saying we were engaged in serious research, but the Pakistani officials gave us the brush-off; there is a bit of an atmosphere at the moment," Mr Lewis said yesterday.

"A normal outswing bowler holds the polished side to the right, and angles the seam towards the slips. The net effect is to make the ball move away from the batsman. Waqar keeps the polished side to the right, but the ball swings in to the batsman," Mr Lewis said. "I cannot find a ready explanation for this; he must angle the seam towards fine leg, like an inswing bowler, but an inswing bowler keeps the polished side to the left. One ought to cancel the other out, but it doesn't."

Research will not be easy. According

to Mr Lewis, the airflow patterns round a ball in the wind tunnel will be very small and difficult to measure, and whatever the ball is mounted on may falsify the results.

Some research has already been done on cricketing aerodynamics, but its conclusions are unsatisfactory. Received wisdom states that a new ball moves more than an old because of its more pronounced seam, a law entirely ignored by Waqar, who barely swings the new ball at all.

Cricket balls, according to Mr Lewis, are fickle things, and how they behave is only partially understood. There is, for example, no explanation of why they swing more under cloudy skies than in the sun. Mr Lewis will be happy to make his findings known to the England team next year, but has a suspicion that they will not do them much good.

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Waqar Younis defies laws of aerodynamics

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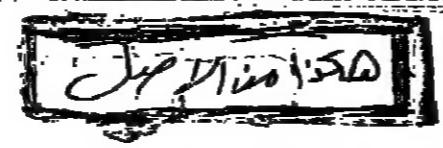
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# IRA blamed for firebomb attacks on show castle

BY CRAIG SETON

THE IRA was thought yesterday to have been responsible for three firebomb attacks that damaged property worth up to £250,000 at a military museum at Shrewsbury Castle, Shropshire, and small fires in two shops in the town.

The centre of Shrewsbury was sealed off yesterday when about 50 fire officers were called to deal with a blaze at the castle, which houses a collection of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, the Shropshire Yeomanry and the Shropshire Horse Artillery. It was thought later that two devices, one explosive and one incendiary, may have gone off on two floors.

Another was believed to have been activated by a sprinkler device at the Staks soft furnishings store in the town's Charles Darwin shopping centre. Minor charring was later discovered at Wades, a furniture shop in the same complex.

No warning was given and

no group had claimed responsibility for the incidents by last night, but Inspector Alan Howes of West Mercia police said terrorists were thought to have carried them out. Derek Conway, the MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham, said it was "more than likely" that it was the work of the IRA.

Geoffrey Parfitt, curator of the Shropshire Regimental Museum at the castle, said the fire and possible explosion there were a disaster. He estimated the cost of repairs at £250,000 and said many relics were irreplaceable.

Exhibits of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and Shropshire Yeomanry had been worst affected. Showcases and windows had been shattered and there was extensive smoke damage.

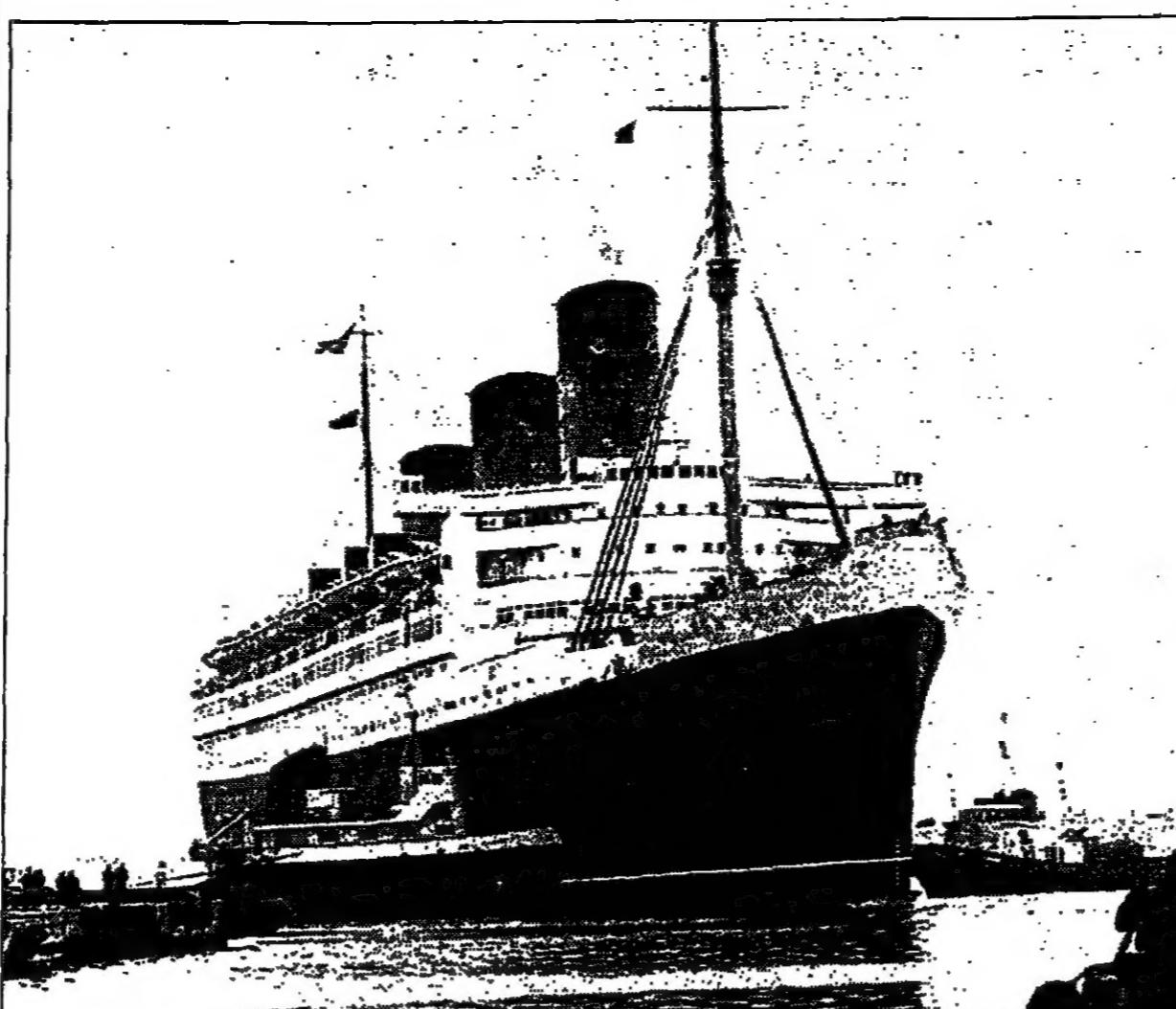
David Thursfield, an assistant chief constable of West Mercia, said he had been in touch with Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of New Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad. Experts

were examining the three scenes to try to piece together evidence of what had happened.

He said it was reasonable to assume the devices at the three sites had been planted by the same person or group and added: "No warnings were given and to date no organisation has claimed responsibility."

Police searched for other devices in the town throughout the morning and appealed for witnesses. Three years ago a series of bombs destroyed an accommodation block at Tern Hill barracks, near Shrewsbury, shortly after it was evacuated by members of the Parachute Regiment. The IRA later claimed responsibility.

The three funnelled liner, launched in a golden era when even third-class passengers had a choice of five *hors d'oeuvres* for dinner, is languishing as a loss-making



Days of glory: tugs bringing the Queen Mary to her berth at Southampton in 1965

## Queen Mary's home port hopes again

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL AND BEN MACINTYRE

A GOLD sovereign was offered yesterday to save the Queen Mary from the rocks and bring her home to Southampton from where she sailed on her maiden transatlantic voyage to New York in 1936. But fetching home the rusting 81,237 ton liner, which won the Blue Riband in 1938 for the fastest Atlantic crossing, will cost an extra £15 million including a refit, towing fees and dockside infrastructure.

At Southampton.

The three funnelled liner,

launched in a golden era

when even third-class pas-

sengers had a choice of five

*hors d'oeuvres* for dinner, is

languishing as a loss-making

tourist attraction at Long Beach awaiting the scrap-merchants now that the Walt Disney Corporation has cancelled its lease on her from the Californian city.

The British shipping com-

pany Sea Containers made

the offer through its wholly-

owned subsidiary RMS

Queen Mary Project with the

backing of the city of South-

ampton, enclosing a pre-

required £50,000 deposit

which may or may not be

refunded if its bid is

accepted.

The cost of bringing her

back would have to be met by

grants from heritage bodies,

the public and possibly the

government. Sea Containers

would manage the ship as an hotel and include a trans-

atlantic liners' museum.

Steve Harris, spokesman

for Sea Containers, said:

"The one sovereign offer is a

token amount. The real cost

will be in bringing her home.

But it will be a marvellous

occasion when she finally

sails up Southampton Water

for the first time in nearly 30

years."

David Abraham, deputy

leader of the Conservative

group on Southampton city

council, said: "We are saying

to Long Beach 'Make the

ship a gift to us so we can

bring her home' and we are

looking at ways of funding

the project in order to get her

here."

Walt Disney has already

spent £15 million on repairs

and has decided to pull out of

its lease at the end of this

year after losing more than

£1 million a month. The city

of Long Beach says a final

decision on the fate of the ship

will not be made until next

month."

Several groups, including

Japanese business concerns

and a Mississippi gambling

tycoon, are believed to have

made offers for the 1,018 ft

liner, whose engines and

boilers have been removed,

but the city fathers of Long

Beach have said they will not

necessarily sell to the highest

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### £46,000 stolen from hospital patient

A cancer patient has had £46,000 stolen from his private bank accounts while in the care of Guy's Hospital Trust in London. The trust has told Remo Gaida, 79, that it will reimburse him if he fails to recover his money through the courts. Mr Gaida discovered that his savings had been taken while he was a resident of Becker House nursing home in New Cross, southeast London, part of the Guy's trust. He has been a resident there for five years. Police enquiries suggest that the money was taken by forged correspondence with Mr Gaida's bank. An employee at the nursing home, suspended after the theft was discovered and wanted for questioning by police, is believed to be abroad. Police have interviewed another person not employed by the hospital, about the missing money. A trust spokeswoman said that the trust had no legal responsibility to him "and wishes to ensure he doesn't suffer financial loss through this theft while he was in our care".

### Women's clinic saved

A clinic in west London that has helped thousands of women to overcome problems associated with the menopause has been saved from imminent closure. The clinic, at the Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, was under threat of closure after the drug company that provided funding decided to pull out. The clinic, which has treated between 30,000 and 40,000 women over the past 12 years, will now be funded by the Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's Special Health Authority. Keith Edmunds, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, said that the clinic was set up before the benefits of hormone replacement therapy were widely known. Advances in treatment for menopausal problems had increased the number of women seeking help for distressing symptoms.

### Garden swallowed up

A family was in shock yesterday after part of their garden disappeared down an old mine shaft in Cornwall. A crater, 100ft deep and 15ft long, opened up in seconds at the back of the Wakem family's home in Gunnislake. They learnt about the collapse when their paperboy ran into the house shouting that the garden had disappeared. Now the Wakems, who have three children, aged seven, six and three, are waiting to hear whether any more of their garden is likely to disappear. Their detached home is 60 yards from where a 75ft-deep crater swallowed up a whole garden two months ago. Alyson Wakem, 34, who built the house with her husband 11 years ago, said: "We knew the whole area was riddled with mineshafts but we assumed they were safe as there were no restrictions on where we built our house."

### Ford to power Jaguars

Ford is to build the next generation of engines that will power Jaguar cars, it was announced yesterday. Jaguar has ruled out building engines for cars due on the market at the end of the century at its own Radford works in Coventry and has opted for the £100 million investment in Ford's engine works at Bridgend, South Wales. Radford has been making engines for Coventry Jaguars for 40 years, with the V6 and V12 engines achieving worldwide fame for their smoothness and power. The new four-litre V8 AJ26 will go into production in 1996 and will be the first big project Ford has undertaken for Jaguar since buying the company for £1.6 billion in 1989. As many as 50,000 engines a year will be made, putting in doubt engine production at Radford, although it may continue to make V12 engines.

### Firemen hit at EC rule

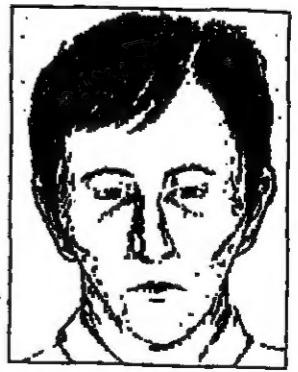
Chief fire officers have warned the government that European Community fire regulations threaten to increase delays in issuing fire certificates and safety inspections. The regulations propose to extend fire safety precautions to small offices, shops, factories and meeting places. The fire authority, rather than the local authority, becomes the enforcement agency. Fire chiefs say that enforcing the regulations could cost an additional £13 million and that, without extra resources, the fire service will face increasingly difficultly in meeting its statutory obligations. Two reports yesterday criticised the Isle of Wight and Surrey fire services for failing to meet targets for safety inspections and for their growing backlog in handling applications for fire certificates.

### Tinsley leads draughts

Dr Marion Tinsley has taken the lead in the world draughts championship against his computerised challenger, winning the twenty-fifth of 40 scheduled games with the Edinburgh Cross opening (Ray Keene writes). Chinook, the Canadian computer program, capitulated after 26 moves of the game, at London's Park Lane hotel. Draughts and computer experts say that Dr Tinsley, 65, of Florida, who has held the world draughts title for 38 years, now appears to be mastering the machine, which can calculate three million moves a minute. The score is three wins for Dr Tinsley, two to Chinook and 21 draws. By draughts standards, this is a bloodthirsty encounter. In 1928, the match in New York between Samuel Gonotsky and Michael Lieber ended with 40 draws and no wins.

### Police hunt rapist

Police have issued an artist's impression, right, of a man believed to have carried out two rapes, two attempted rapes and a serious sexual assault on women in south London. He is white, aged 19-30, between 5ft 7in and 5ft 9in, with a pale complexion and brown, lank hair. He often wears a black leather jacket, white T-shirt and baggy blue jeans. In one attack a mother was raped in front of her two-year-old child.

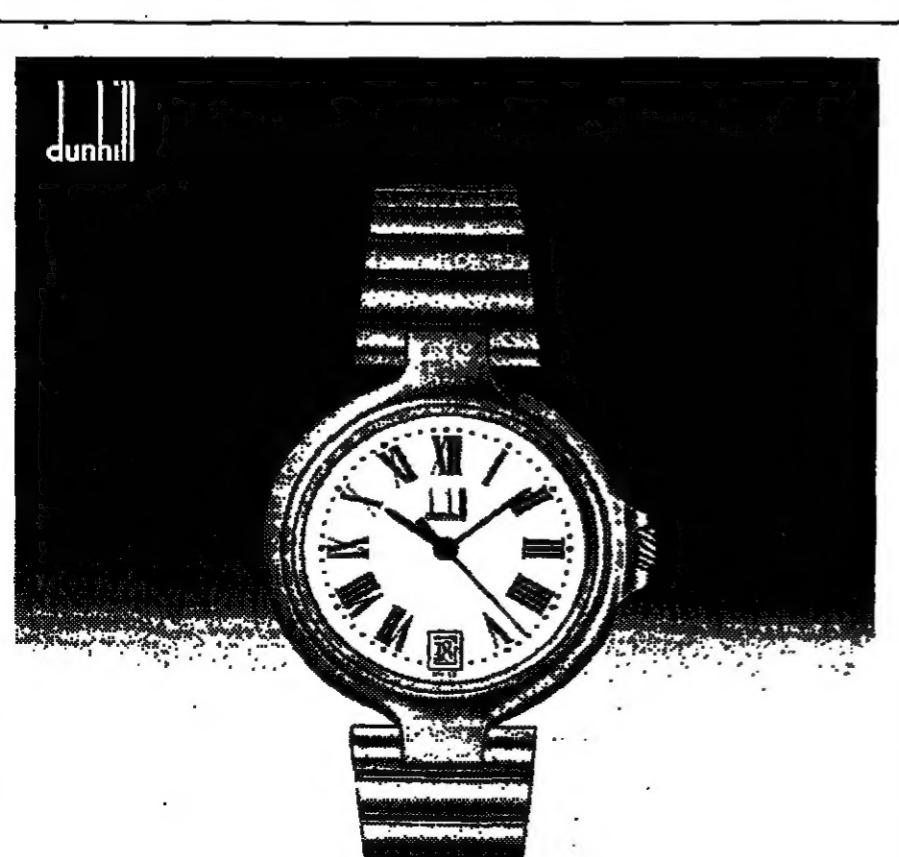


### Prison staff to meet

The Prison Officers' Association is to meet on September 2 to decide the union's policy towards government plans to privatise Strangeways jail in Manchester. Four hundred delegates will attend the one-day conference at TUC headquarters in London to discuss whether the union should back plans by the prison service management to compete with the private sector in tendering to run the jail. The association's national executive has twice postponed taking a decision on a policy that has divided the union. Several senior members of the executive recognise the danger the union faces if it fails to back an in-house bid, but others are resisting the move strongly. If the union stands aside at Strangeways, it risks the loss of hundreds of jobs should the contract be awarded to a private company.

### Orkney report pledge

The report and recommendations of the judicial enquiry into the seizure of children on Orkney by social workers last year will be published after the parliamentary recess, the Scottish Office said yesterday. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the Liberal Democrat MP for Orkney and Shetland, emphasising that there was no question of the report not being made public. Mr Wallace had expressed fears earlier this month that the report would not be published.



#### THE MILLENNIUM.

The stainless steel Millennium features a virtually unscratchable sapphire glass, with Roman numerals on enamel dial and a choice of steel bracelet, leather or ostrich straps.

ALFRED DUNHILL  
Sought after since 1802.

VISIT ALFRED DUNHILL IN LONDON AT DUKE STREET, ST JAMES'S, THE BURLINGTON ARCADE, 1 SLOANE STREET AND AT ALFRED DUNHILL IN HARRODS AND SELFRIDGE'S. WATCHES ALSO AVAILABLE AT WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND LTD, THE GOLDSMITHS GROUP HARRODS WATCH DEPARTMENT AND LEADING JEWELLERS.

MICHAEL JACKSON left Britain yesterday after a host of children spoke glowingly of how he set aside three hours to listen to their feelings on the world's problems.

The 84 children from all over Europe spelled out their views at a meeting at Regent's College, London, on subjects that included racism, the environment, famine, and AIDS.

A girl of 12 was allowed the rare privilege of photographing the singer. But Jemma Tomlin from Bromley, Kent, learnt an early lesson about dealing with a superstar: not a photo could be released without Jackson's approval and just before leaving yesterday he allowed only two shots to be published. The youngsters met to help Jackson draw up a charter for his newly launched Heal the World Foundation, for which the singer has set aside millions of dollars.

Mohammed Ahmed, 16, from Brixton, south London, chose to talk about racism because he said that a friend was murdered in a racially motivated attack. "When I told Michael Jackson what had happened he was shocked and said he was sorry. He cared. I never thought someone as rich as him would take that kind of interest."

At the end of the meeting

#### CORRECTION

In a table in a report on house repossessions (August 24) the percentage change in orders made for West Yorkshire should have been -1, and the percentage change in suspensions for Devon and Leicestershire should have been +1 and +111 respectively.

Joe Miller LSD

## With-profits bond holders to be asked if they knew risks

By SARA MCCONNELL

ABOUT 1,300 holders of with-profits insurance bonds from Equity & Law and London and Manchester Assurance will be receiving letters from the companies in the next few weeks asking them if they fully understood the risks of the policy they bought. In some cases, people could get their money back.

This follows a six-month investigation by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) into the marketing of such bonds. This week it emerged that 11 other companies have also been asked to withdraw one or more items from their range of marketing material.

The regulator was concerned that companies and their agents were misleading people into thinking that the bonds worked like building society accounts. In fact the bonds are insurance policies and if investors try to cash them early they will not get back all the money they put in. In the small print of the marketing brochure, companies also reserve the right to apply what they call a "market value adjuster" that allows them to reduce the payout if the stock market is not performing.

About £1 billion has so far been invested in such bonds. Part of the reason for their popularity is because salesmen earn a high commission for selling the policies. They would not get any commission for recommending that someone keep their money in the building society.

John Cummings, deputy managing director of London and Manchester Assurance, said that the company would be writing to 1,000 investors in two to three weeks' time. He said: "Lautro wanted more information on the market value adjuster as we had said that in certain circumstances we would apply the adjuster. It also asked for clarification on



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Architect of education reforms warns against 'untrustworthy' results for science pupils

## Ignore curriculum tests, parents told

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE national curriculum is failing children, making impossible demands on teachers and misleading parents, the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was told yesterday.

Paul Black, professor of science education at King's College London, and one of the architects of the government's educational reforms, said that teachers, pupils and parents would be well advised to ignore the results of science attainment tests for 14-year-olds under the national curriculum because they were bound to be untrustworthy.

Professor Jim Campbell, of Warwick University, said that the introduction of the national curriculum into primary schools had left teachers on a treadmill, working harder and achieving less.

Class teachers had to become "the primary school equivalent of Einstein, Madame Curie and Linford Christie all rolled into one" in

**BRITISH  
ASSOCIATION  
Southampton**

order to satisfy the demands of the national curriculum.

The intellectual demands made of teachers could be realised "only by renaissance men and women", of whom there were few in the primary teaching force, he said.

Professor Black, who chaired the committee in 1988 that recommended how children should be tested, said that the government had abandoned most of the principles embodied in his report. These changes had not been grounded in evidence, but based on prejudice and "set fair to do serious harm to children's education".

The kind of standardised tests now envisaged were similar to those that had been used for many years in the United States, but which are now being abandoned there. Far from fitting naturally into classroom practice, they en-

couraged teachers to drill pupils to pass the tests.

The results could not possibly be reliable, because the tests would be too short. At 14, for example, pupils will face a three-hour test in science to see if they meet three "attainment targets". That meant one hour per target.

"From all the evidence that I know, the result of one hour of testing on science performance will be untrustworthy," he said. "To cover the ground, the test will be bound to adopt those narrow forms of test items which the USA authorities are abandoning after decades of experience with them. Teachers, pupils and parents would be well advised to ignore the results."

The Education Reform Act had become an instrument for direct government control in which the opinions of ministers were insulated from professional opinion and expertise, Professor Black said. "As an academic researcher who saw the act as a force for good, and who has given much of his time to trying to help its development, I am deeply disappointed and fearful at the outcome."

Professor Campbell said that the national curriculum, a dream at conception, had turned into a nightmare at delivery. Conscientious teachers committed to reform were having to work unreasonably long hours, averaging about 54 a week, to keep up.

Only a third of the time was spent teaching, the rest in preparation, marking, meetings, in-service training and other professional development.

This "energising treadmill" left the teachers working hard, but getting little satisfaction. "I notice that I never complete what I hope to achieve," one teacher told him, summarising the feelings of many.

Professor Campbell suggested that the demands of the national curriculum might be modified to make them more realizable without subjecting teachers to a continuation of "unmanageable workloads and a profound sense of failure". In many cases, such changes would need more money, to improve staffing levels and the teaching materials available in schools.

the conference that the more that is spent the better, this was a revolutionary notion. He said that Britain had been in economic decline for two to three decades, even though it was a major science nation. This was also true of the US, Australia and New Zealand. Japan, with no great government funding of civil research and development, had flourished. When governments spent more on science, industry spent less and the economy performed worse, he said.

The US government had spent almost nothing on science before the second world war, although its economy grew rapidly. Since American science spending burgeoned, economic growth had continued at the same rate, although more recently it had faltered.

Dr Martin conceded that both Switzerland and Japan, two highly successful economies with low government science spending, appeared to support Dr Kealey's thesis—but said both were untypical and not to be taken as a model. He called for a government policy of concentration on strategic areas of science and said he hoped that the new Office of Science and Technology would provide this.

For Dr Kealey this was all too familiar. The simple fact was, he said, that public funding of civil research and development damaged science because it displaced more private money than it fed in. "You can have too much science," he said.

Dr Kealey then suggested that government support for science should be reduced. Since it is an article of faith at

## Ministers urged to call halt to urban build-up in South

UNspoiled countryside all over southeast England will disappear under bricks and mortar unless present accepted levels of housing development are reduced, the Council for the Protection of Rural England says in a leaflet published today.

The housing slump should be no cause for complacency, Tony Burton, the council's senior planner, said yesterday. The long-term threat of urbanisation was as great as ever.

Last month, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, had indicated that the government expected 855,000 new houses to be built in the South-East between 1991 and 2006. That was based on an assumption of 57,000 completions a year, the same rate agreed in 1989. In spite of important changes in planning and environmental policies in the meantime,

"The future of hundreds of sites around towns and villages in the South-East hangs in the balance," Mr Burton said. "Reducing levels of housing development to that which the environment of the South-East can tolerate is one of the most important steps which the government could take on the road to environmentally sustainable development."

The leaflet observes that housebuilding is responsible

for the loss of more of the South-East's countryside than any other form of built development. More than half the farmland lost to urban development goes under new houses.

Reducing the level of housing development does not mean ignoring the homeless, or preventing affordable houses from being built, the leaflet says. But history has shown that building houses does not in itself solve the problem.

The predicted loss of 1.27 per cent of the total land to urban development meant a 10 per cent increase in the urban area outside London, and the loss of more than 34,000 hectares of rural land. That is equivalent to losing an area of countryside almost the size of the Isle of Wight in 20 years.

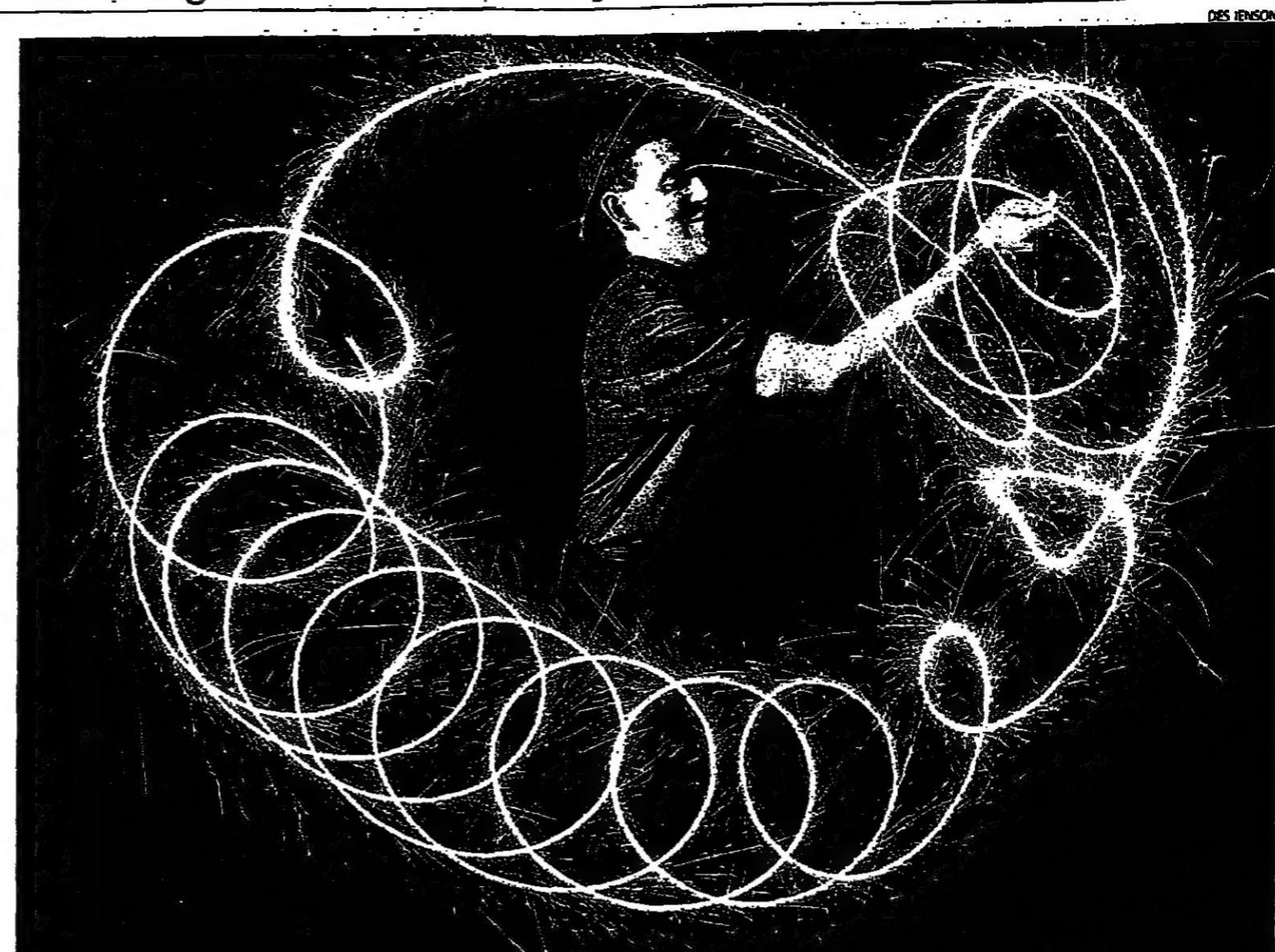
The leaflet pinpoints as

problems. Record levels of housebuilding in the 1980s coincided with record increases in homelessness and a chronic shortage of affordable housing.

New development should be concentrated on making the best use of the huge tracts of wasteland in towns and cities, and on revitalising the thousands of vacant unfit houses. London alone has more than 1,140 hectares (nearly 3,000 acres) of urban dereliction, an area which has increased by more than 300 per cent since 1974. Outside London there are a further 700 hectares of derelict land in other towns and cities in the South-East.

"It is frequently argued that such a small percentage of the countryside will disappear under housing development in the next ten years that conservationists' worries are a storm in a teacup," the leaflet says. But statistics tell only part of the story.

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Shining example: Andy Gosse, from the British Gas research station at Solihull, West Midlands, waves a sparkler in front of delegates at the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Southampton yesterday. He and his colleague David McRitchie gave an hour-long lecture that featured 50 experiments, including explosions, all designed to emphasise safety and the science of combustion

## Scientists lose fight against malaria

WITHIN five years it may be impossible to protect travellers to some parts of the world against malaria (Nigel Hawkes writes). The growth of drug resistance is progressive and frightening, and quinine is losing its effectiveness, the meeting was told.

Studies by Nicholas White and colleagues at the faculty of tropical medicine at Mahidol University in Thailand have shown a steady loss of drug effectiveness in malaria patients. "We're not keeping pace in terms of new drugs," said Adrian Hill, of the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. "Recently introduced drugs such as Mefloquine are losing effectiveness, and there are relatively few new drugs in development."

Already malaria is causing between one and two million deaths a year, almost entirely in developing countries. The danger, said Dr Hill, was that the declining effectiveness of drugs would increase deaths to ten million a year.

Deaths in Britain are rare, but not unknown: recently Richard Hughes, brother of the MP Simon Hughes, died after contracting malaria on his honeymoon in Kenya.

The riskiest areas for travellers are the relatively prosperous parts of the developing world, including Thailand and Kenya, where drugs have been widely used, allowing resistance to develop. Failure to complete a course of anti-malaria tablets, which is common, encourages resistance

because it allows the infective agent to survive and co-exist with low levels of the drug. Better use of drugs could slow the development of resistance. Dr Hill said.

He reported on efforts to develop a vaccine against malaria by looking for the genes that control the immune response to the disease.

"We have identified a probable mechanism for the immune response gene, which should lead us to one or two antigens which might then be candidates for a malaria vaccine." So far, these trials have not been published in full," Dr Hill said. "We need more testing to know if this vaccine is really effective."

## No change in lot of the elderly

THE notion that today's elderly are more lonely and isolated from their children than in the past was dismissed yesterday as a myth.

Richard Wall, a researcher at Cambridge University who has based his study on records dating back to 1692, told the association that the belief that the elderly were cared for in the past by complex family units was "an idealised misrepresentation".

Institutions for the elderly were common 300 years ago, and were normal for men and women over 75 years old. The number of children living close enough to have regular contact with their elderly parents had not altered since the late eighteenth century, he said.

Differences in living arrangements today could be explained more by changes in the birth rate, the availability of small housing units and standards of living than by changes in family values, said Mr Wall, acting director of the Economic and Social Research Council's group for history of population and social sciences.

Mr Wall found that the number of over-75s in institutions differed little over the centuries. The one change in modern times was that more women were in institutions, because of their higher life expectancy.

## Researchers kill myth of unchanging countryside

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

THE popular romantic image of a bygone rural age in which villagers lived in self-contained isolation untouched by events outside their parish is challenged in a study of three English villages and said he hoped that the new Office of Science and Technology would provide this.

Migrations into villages were commonplace and could have a significant impact on a community's life. Andrew Hinde, a researcher in the social statistics department at Southampton University, told association members that vil-

lagers welcomed the newcomers. "The people who moved in ... were not marginal to the social and economic life of these villages, playing walk-on parts. They were often central to the drama," he said.

A study of Durley's population in 1891 found that 192 people were born in the parish but 262 were born outside, including several from the Midlands, a retired doctor from Kent and a farmer and his family from Cornwall. Similar patterns were found in the other two Hampshire villages.

To assess whether this migration had been important for village life, the re-

searchers studied records that showed the jobs of the newcomers and whether they were permanent residents or just seasonal workers.

Many new arrivals were found to have been central to the community's life. For example, in Ashley in 1861, four farmers were born in Dorset, Norfolk, Devon and Scotland. In Stratfield Turgis in 1861, the hotel keeper was from Leicester and the curate came from Tottenham, north London.

The villages also had a rapid turnover of residents. In Durley, among a population of 483, more than 230 people

moved away between 1871 and 1881 but nearly 200 moved in. Many migrants were women leaving their parish to marry or to take up servants' jobs.

A study of the Houghton family, an important name in Durley since at least 1632, found that in 1891 12 married men of that name were living in the village, 11 of them born in the parish. All but one of these men had wives who had been born elsewhere, from surrounding villages such as Itchen Stoke and Upton but also from Winchester and South Australia.

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PETER TREWAVAS  
Safe for the moment: Beech Hill, in the path of the Great Lea project

development "hot spots" Carterton, Oxfordshire; Reading, Berkshire; Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire; Micheldever, Hampshire; Bedford; Brighton; Horley, Surrey; Stevenage, Hertfordshire; the Medway Gap in Kent; and Chelmsford, Essex.

Until now the M4 motorway sweeping south of Reading has provided an accepted barrier against further urban sprawl. To the north the spread of the housing estates surrounding one of Britain's most successful boom towns has appeared to be almost unstoppable.

On the southern side of the scene changes abruptly. Barely 40 miles from the centre of London narrow lanes meander through idyllic countryside

hamlets too small to merit more than a passing glance. The parkland of Stratfield Saye, home of the Duke of Wellington, is a reminder of a less frenetic age.

The scheme was opposed by Michael Heseltine, Mr Ridley's predecessor and later successor at the department, who has consistently argued against large-scale development to the west of London, suggesting that expansion in the South-East would be best accommodated by his favoured east London "corridor" which runs along both banks of the Thames estuary.

An appeal by Speyhawk against the refusal of planning permission was rejected after a public enquiry in 1989. That is unlikely to be the end of the story.

## Russian academics do it the hard way

By KERRY GILL

ANYONE who suspects that academics are a soft lot unused to the vicissitudes of modern life should be introduced to Victor Anisimov, deputy head of the St Petersburg Institute of Mechanics and his six weather-beaten colleagues.

The seven scientists had been invited to exchange expertise in oil industry technology and research with their counterparts at the new Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. The problem was that the Russians had no hard currency with which to pay the £350 fares from St Petersburg to Aberdeen.

Mr Anisimov and his friends borrowed a 30ft yacht and, despite storms and a lack of modern navigational equipment, completed the 19-day voyage from the gulf of Finland to Aberdeen harbour.

The crew lived on coffee, biscuits, oatmeal and sardines as bad weather forced them to take a 1,000-mile zig-zag course through the Baltic and the North Sea. Accommodation aboard the yacht, named Success, was so cramped that at least two were forced to remain on deck whatever the weather. They stopped twice, at Königsberg and Copenhagen.

Yesterday Mr Anisimov and

his crew were preparing for the return voyage to St Petersburg. He said: "This skill has helped us at a time when air travel is difficult to arrange and expensive. It was very stormy all the time in the Baltic and none of our navigational aids worked."

"We had to rely on a compass and a lot of luck to get here." Luckily all are experienced sailors and Mr Anisimov is a member of the Russian naval reserve. The Russians were spared the red-tape nightmare of trying to get exit visas. By using seamen's passports they were allowed a five-day stay in Britain.

Their visit was the result of a meeting between four of the Russians and scientists at the university. As crew members of the yacht Polstar during last year's tall ship race they took the opportunity to call at the university to discuss future exchange visits and possible joint research projects. This summer two staff from the university paid the first official visit to the St Petersburg Institute and invited the Russian delegation back.

A university spokesman said: "We were expecting a call from the airport to say they had arrived. We were surprised to hear that instead they had sailed into Aberdeen."



# Iraqis move warplanes north of 32nd parallel

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein, despite issuing blood-curdling statements on Monday threatening to resist any plan to impose a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq, has started to move combat aircraft to bases north of the 32nd parallel and out of harm's way.

According to American intelligence reports, the redeployment began at the weekend and Baghdad was declaring its intention to respond militarily to the introduction by America, Britain and France of an air exclusion zone in the South. More than 30 warplanes have been moved north, leaving only about ten inside the prohibited area.

As the Pentagon analysed

the latest intelligence assessments of Iraqi military dispositions in and around the southern marshlands, home to the Shia Muslim rebellion against Saddam's regime, the State Department cautioned Iran not to take advantage of the Western allies' plan.

During the Gulf war, America sent frequent messages to Tehran aimed at reassuring Iran that Washington posed no military threat. No reply has been received yet from President Rafsanjani's government, which has backed with supplies some Shia factions in southern Iraq. Several Arab governments have expressed disquiet over the Western air prohibition plan on the grounds that it risks encouraging the break-up of Iraq and will result in the strengthening of Iran in the region.

The message to Iran was part of Washington's diplomatic effort to calm regional fears. On Monday, Gulf Arab diplomats in Kuwait claimed that an announcement of the "no-fly" zone had been delayed because Arab governments had asked the Western allies to rethink their plan.

Bush administration officials denied there had been any slip in the timetable for the announcement agreed between Washington, London and Paris.

Yesterday, Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, said a statement from President Bush on the plan would be made in the next few days. On Sunday, Mr Fitzwater predicted that the ban would be imposed yesterday, but he did say it might take a few days longer.

The redeployment of Iraqi warplanes over the weekend coincided with an increase in attacks by Iraqi troops and helicopters on Shia positions, according to the American intelligence reports. Leading exiled Iraqi opposition sources also said yesterday that Iraqi air and heavy artillery attacks were continuing on the Shias in the southern marshes.

The latest reports from inside the marshlands were circulated by Saad Jabr, the son of a former prime minister. They named three villages in the Amara area, al-Misrah, al-Nakbara and al-Mahala, which were "heavily bombed" causing many casualties and forcing their inhabitants to flee into the marshes. The area is just below the 32nd parallel.

The reports, which have not been confirmed, also name three villages in the Nasiriyah district, al-Jarish, al-Hammar and al-Fuhood, which they said were the target of renewed artillery attack.

"We want a complete ceasefire and reconciliation between them to establish an Islamic government," the Afghan Islamic Press quoted Mr Khalis as saying. Mr Khalis and the more moderate Mr Muhammadi are members of the leadership council, an uneasy coalition of at least ten Mujahidin parties set up when the Mujahidin took power from the communist government in Kabul.

There was heavy rocket and artillery fire in Kabul yesterday as the renegade Hezbollah and forces loyal to the Mujahidin Islamic government launched offensives against each other's positions.

The two veteran Mujahidin leaders had received acceptances to a letter sent to President Burhanuddin Rabbani of Afghanistan and to the fundamentalist Hezbollah leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, also a member of the leadership council who is based south of the city, the official said. "We received a positive reply from everyone," the Afghan Islamic Press quoted Mr Khalis as saying.

In Brussels, the medical relief organisation Médecins sans Frontières said yesterday that about 200,000 civilians have fled the fighting in Kabul and 50,000 of them have to survive in very bad conditions. It added that the refugees have settled in makeshift camps along the road to the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, northwest of Kabul.



## Kabul hunt for truce begins

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TWO of the most senior members of Afghanistan's ruling leadership council said yesterday that they would leave Pakistan for Kabul to negotiate a ceasefire between dissident Mujahidin guerrillas and the Afghan president.

Vice-President Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi and Younis Khalis, leader of a splinter faction of the Hezb-e-Islami party, plan to go to Kabul or its surrounding provinces today, officials said.

"We want a complete ceasefire and reconciliation between them to establish an Islamic government," the Afghan Islamic Press quoted Mr Khalis as saying. Mr Khalis and the more moderate Mr Muhammadi are members of the leadership council, an uneasy coalition of at least ten Mujahidin parties set up when the Mujahidin took power from the communist government in Kabul.

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## Israel hints at concession to Syria on Golan Heights

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL hinted yesterday that it was ready to make some territorial concessions on the strategic Golan Heights captured from Syria 25 years ago.

In an interview with Israel Radio, Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, confirmed that negotiators at the peace talks in Washington would be working on the basis of UN Resolution 242, which calls for withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories captured in the 1967 six-day war.

Asked whether Israel would tell Syria it was ready to withdraw from the plateau, Mr Peres replied: "Israel is saying this the way it decided to say this, namely, using the words of resolutions 242 and 338... Israel declares that resolution 242 applies to all its territories."

His comments, although deliberately vague, nevertheless were a radical departure from the previous Likud-led government of Yitzhak Shamir, which insisted that the Jewish state had already met the terms of the resolution by returning the Sinai peninsula to Egypt under the Camp David accords. It resolutely refused to contemplate a withdrawal from the Golan Heights or the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli foreign minister gave a warning, however, that at this stage Israel was discussing only "principles not maps" and he urged Damascus not to interpret his comments as meaning Israel was ready to relinquish the Golan, home to 15,000 Israeli settlers and 18,000 Druze Arabs. "The Syrians should certainly soften

their position; otherwise, they will jeopardise the continuation of the peace negotiations," he said. "It is inconceivable that the Syrians will say that they will start the negotiations after we accept their positions on all issues."

A note of caution was also injected by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, during a visit to the Palestinian town of Ramallah where he warned both Israelis and Palestinians not to expect any "miracles or short cuts". In particular, he said that in the talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators which recommenced yesterday the two sides still had fundamental differences on the question of elections in the occupied territories. Israel envisages an administrative council, but Palestinians demand a legislative assembly.

However, he repeated his offer to allow the polls to be held within the coming months. "I would be prepared to propose a target date of April or May 1993 as a date for elections on condition that we determine the stages leading up to that. For example, by December 1 the electoral system, by January 1 or February 1 an agreement on what we hand over to the administrative council."

Not surprisingly, the comments of the two veteran Labour leaders drew immediate criticism from the opposition right-wing hawks who accused the government of offering the Arab side concessions with nothing in return.

The Israeli negotiators are competing to see who has more concessions in his sack," Ariel Sharon, the hardline former housing minister, told the Knesset.

However, the right-wing has failed so far to mobilise a credible campaign against the left-wing coalition, a fact highlighted on Monday when seven opposition Knesset members staged a demonstration march through Arab east Jerusalem, which attracted at most 40 of their supporters.

Right-wing fears were compounded by the announcement yesterday that two dovish Knesset members, Yael Dayan of Labour and Naomi Chazan of the leftist Meretz party, had held a secret meeting in The Hague last week with Nabil Shaath, a Palestinian official. Although such contacts are still banned under Israeli law, Yael Dayan, daughter of the late defence minister Moshe Dayan, said that she held the meeting to show that there is a majority among the Israeli public and today also in the Knesset as well as among Palestinians and the PLO leadership which speaks the same language.

The visit will be the first by a Japanese monarch since the occupation of China, during which an estimated 10 million people died. In one of the most infamous episodes of the war, Japanese soldiers murdered some 200,000 civilians in the city of Nanking. At a camp in Heilongjiang, they carried out biological experiments on Chinese prisoners.

Recent polls show that 70

per cent of Japanese are in favour of the visit, which will strengthen relations between the two most important countries in Asia. Right-wingers, however, fear that the emperor, as the son of the wartime Emperor Hirohito, who died in 1989, is vulnerable to Chinese demands for some expression of regret.

Chinese leaders will be sorely tempted to mention the war. It has been a constant source of tension, with Peking repeatedly charging that Japan glorifies its wartime crimes in school textbooks. But the Chinese leadership will not endanger the success of the visit, and the economic benefits it could bring by raising such sensitive topics.

Peking relinquished its right to seek war indemnity from Japan in 1972, when relations were normalised. The agreement, however, did not apply to non-governmental organisations or individuals. Early this year, a Chinese intellectual, Tong Zeng, collected signatures from more than 10,000 Chinese war victims in order to press for compensation. Such individual campaigns are usually quashed quickly by Peking, but this one has until now been tolerated — a sign of tacit support.

But Peking is unlikely to allow such campaigners anywhere near the emperor, not least because in the past anti-Japanese feeling has fuelled mass student demonstrations. That is one aspect of Chinese life that the Communist leaders have no intention of showing off to the emperor.

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## Akihito's visit to Peking riles right

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

ANOTHER old Asian enemy fell under Peking's sway yesterday when Japan announced that Emperor Akihito would be making a controversial visit to China in October. The announcement came just a day after China established diplomatic relations with South Korea and caused great satisfaction in Peking, which is eager for trade and investment and has pushed hard for the emperor to come.

The news caused nervousness in Tokyo, where right-wingers have opposed the visit, fearing the emperor may be humiliated by having to apologise for wartime atrocities. A member of Japan's right-wing nationalist fringe reacted soon after the announcement by setting a truck ablaze outside the official residence of Kiuchi Miyazawa, the prime minister.

Japanese officials said that Peking had agreed that the emperor would not apologise, but nationalists did not seem reassured. A police spokesman said that a special security commission had been set up to protect public figures from possible terrorist attacks inspired by the news of the trip.

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Sudden fire at camp on the Kenyan border. The agency visited to find out if the refugees had been abducted or left the camp willingly. Khatoune claims they were kidnapped to swell the ranks of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

## Beirut asks Speaker not to quit

BEIRUT: The Lebanese government yesterday called on Hassan Huseini, the parliamentary Speaker, to withdraw his resignation which he submitted on Monday, alleging that the last phase of elections were rigged. He suffered an humiliating defeat from the Iranian-backed Hezbollah fundamentalist group in his Baalbeck constituency (Ali Jaberwises).

The administration refused to yield to his demand to announce the poll null and void, preferring to wait until this morning, when the final results become available.

## Jet talks held

MOSCOW: Qin Jiwei, the Chinese defence minister, visiting here, discussed with Pavel Grachev, his Russian counterpart, the possibility of Moscow selling fighter aircraft and other arms to China. They also discussed arms reduction and border security. (Reuters)

## Nine killed

JOHANNESBURG: A South African policeman under investigation for rape shot dead eight people, including five colleagues and a four-year-old girl, before shooting himself dead at a police station and prison complex at Goedmoed, Orange Free State.

## Boat spotted

SINGAPORE: A Taiwanese fishing boat, the Terfu 51, fleeing the scene of its collision with a luxury liner on Sunday, was seen steaming north in the South China Sea, a Singapore official said. Malaysia has launched an air and sea search for the vessel. (Reuters)

## Nuclear pact

MEXICO CITY: The French ambassador to Mexico said that France has ratified a protocol of a 1967 treaty that would prohibit the construction or stockpiling of nuclear arms in its territories in Latin America. Britain has also signed the protocol. (Reuters)

## Robot farmers

TOKYO: Japan plans to develop robot farm workers to take the place of people abandoning the land for jobs in cities, an official said. The farming population had dropped from six million households in 1960 to 3.78 million last year. (Reuters)

## Bingo bulletins

Sydney: Fierce competition has led Australian television stations to introduce bingo games during their news programmes. Prizes include cars, cash and holidays for the lucky winners whose game card numbers match those shown on screen. (Reuters)

## Grass widow

BULAWAYO: A 71-year-old grandmother was fined a token 40 Zimbabwe dollars (\$4) for smoking marijuana in her home. Annie Ngweya said a winddoctor recommended it in case her asthma flared up. (AP)

## Sect leader oversees arranged marriage of 60,000 Moonies

FROM REUTER IN SEOUL

FORTY thousand people lined up with military precision and chanted wedding vows in unison at Seoul's Olympic stadium yesterday, many of them pledging to love and cherish a virtual stranger. Another 20,000 participated from afar, pledging their vows by satellite link-up across three continents in the largest mass wedding to date arranged by the Unification Church of the Rev Sun Myung Moon.

Clean-shaven, short-haired grooms sweated in the bright sunshine in identical dark suits and red ties. The women, faces hidden behind identical white veils, clutched identical bouquets to their identical white gowns. Thousands stood alone, holding a photograph of their betrothed, separated on their wedding day because of visa or financial problems. The couples are not permitted to consummate the marriage for 40 days.

Mr Moon, wearing a white and gold crown and draped in a flowing gold-edged white gown, presided at the wedding from a podium erected above the couples, who had come from 131 countries. "Do

## Odd couple scream their way to court

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AS THE southern states shudder under the fury of Hurricane Andrew, New Yorkers continue to devote most of their attention to a tempest closer to home. The child custody battle between Woody Allen and his former lover the actress Mia Farrow moved yesterday from the pages of every magazine and newspaper in the city to the supreme court in Manhattan.

The latest charge against Allen, that he had brought forward the release date of his new film, *Husbands and Wives*, in order to capitalise on publicity surrounding the case, was splashed across the *New York Post* front page yesterday. The film stars Allen and Farrow and has eerie parallels with the drama being played out in real life. Given the welter of charges and counter-charges of child abuse, blackmail, violence and betrayal, allegations of mere greed may seem like light relief for Allen.

The Manhattan judge, Phyllis Gangel-Jacob, now

has the task of unravelling the truth behind the vitriol. Yesterday, lawyers for both parents presented their pre-liminary motions at a pre-trial hearing to set a schedule for later proceedings. As the judge who presided over the marriage break-up between Donald and Ivana Trump, Judge Gangel-Jacob is no stranger to celebrity feuds, but the Allen-Farrow case has achieved an emotional complexity reminiscent of Allen's films, and a melodramatic bitterness worthy of Wagner.

Allen has acknowledged

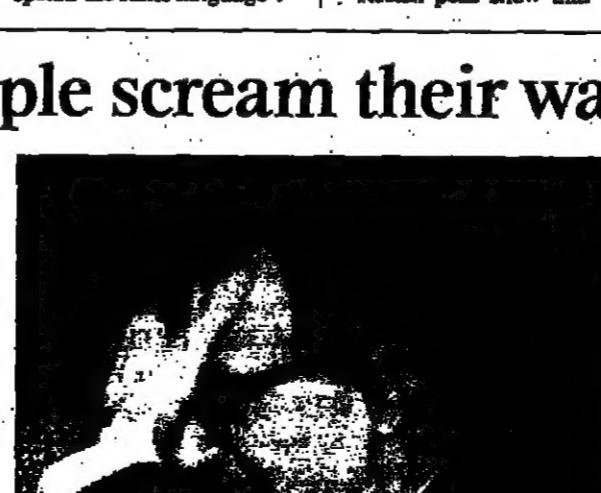
that he is having an affair with Farrow's adopted daughter, Soon-Yi, who was adopted by Farrow and her former husband, the conductor Andre Previn, and who is now living with Allen. Allen says her mother once hit her with a chair and was often abusive. Allen also says Farrow's lawyers tried to blackmail him for \$7 million (£3.5 million) in exchange for suppressing the allegations of abuse.

Both sides say that "much more" will come out in court. As Allen told *Time* magazine, he feels he is "at the centre of a cosmic explosion".

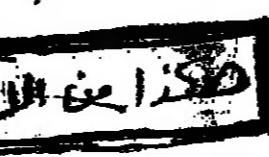
Whether New Yorkers will get to see and hear the second half of the drama has yet to be decided. On Monday, lawyers for both sides asked that film cameras should be banned from the court. Judge Gangel-Jacob ruled that, although other press representatives could attend, radio reporters and television cameras should be banned at yesterday's pre-trial hearing, but she reserved judgment on whether proceedings could be televised at a later date.

Allen, in turn, has accused

Farrow, 47, his companion of the past 12 years, of being an



Note of anguish: Woody Allen leaving Michael's Pub in New York after his weekly clarinet performance



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PERFECT DESIGN AND EXCELLENT WORKMANSHIP OF THE BENTLEY.

JOHN SURTEY, COPIES TO  
the love in Backbeat, about the  
you see how?  
you see how?

Solution...  
14

# Ambitious peace talks cloak European and UN failures

THE London Conference, which the prime minister opens today, is the world's most ambitious attempt yet to find a comprehensive political solution to the break-up of Yugoslavia.

The conference is also, however, a tacit admission that poorly co-ordinated attempts by the European Community and by the United Nations to halt the fighting in the former Yugoslavia and to promote a lasting ceasefire there have failed.

The resignation of Lord Carrington, after a year of increasingly unproductive shuttle diplomacy, marks an end to the Europeans' attempt to resolve the conflict without involving powers outside the former Yugoslavia.

Britain has spent more than two weeks preparing this conference, which Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, originally opposed, believing it would undermine Lord Carrington's mission. The main danger now is that Serbia or another of the Yugoslav protagonists will walk out. But the pressures on them to remain to negotiate will be strong, especially as any walkout is likely to toughen international opinion against the parties refusing to negotiate.

This week's meeting marks a tacit admission that international attempts to promote a lasting ceasefire have not worked, Michael Binion writes

An important by-product of the preparations has been the smoothing of relations with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, who earlier accused the European Community, and especially Britain, of overplaying the Yugoslav crisis at the expense of other parts of the world and imposing on the United Nations more than it could handle.

The conference, due to end tomorrow evening, has set itself four objectives: a promise by all the warring parties not to use force; an end to ethnic cleansing; the closure of all detention camps; and, until then, an end to human rights violations inside them; and a respect by all sides for frontiers and the rights of ethnic minorities.

If any side rejects these terms the conference will try to mobilise the international community to impose harsher political and economic sanctions than those that are now being deployed against Belgrade. Unless Serbian leaders follow through swiftly on promises made to halt the fighting in Bosnia, British officials are hoping for swift agreement among all, including the Russians, for new measures that could even include a total communications embargo.

The meeting in London brings together all the foreign ministers of the European Community plus Russia and America; Dr Boutros Ghali and his two senior under-secretaries, Marrack Goulding and Vladimir Petrovsky; Cyrus Vance, the special United Nations envoy; Lord Carrington, who will not step down until next week; representatives of Muslim countries and the leaders of the six former Yugoslav republics.

The conference is the beginning of a standing international conference that will be based in Geneva, where Mr Vance and Lord Carrington's successor will continue negotiations on all the aspects of the break-up of Yugoslavia. "We are looking for a comprehensive political settlement of the issues raised by the republics that they can all agree to at the end of the day," one British official said.

Two immediate issues will dominate the London meeting: the fighting in Bosnia and the self-proclaimed rump state of Yugoslavia which has not yet been recognised by any other country.

British officials played down any hope for a quick end to the bloodshed in Bosnia. "We are not going for another quick and risky ceasefire. It would only hold if it were accompanied by confidence-building measures. There can be no lasting ceasefire unless it takes into account supervision of heavy weapons, the refugees, control of the disparate military groups, the lack of trust, the hatred and bitterness," an official said.

The conference will also attempt to reach agreement on how sanctions should be tightened, if necessary, and on co-ordinated humanitar-

ian relief, especially the expelling of the camps and settling of refugees.

The conference will take over all the negotiations now going on under the European Community aegis, including the four subgroups set up by Lord Carrington on Bosnia minorities, economic issues and the recognition of successor states. Two more sets of talks will be added on humanitarian issues, reportedly chaired by Mr Cyrus Vance, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees — and on confidence-

building measures. All the participants will sit together round the table in the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre, but no specific agenda will govern the talks. Today will see mainly formal speeches though, as a senior official said, "all confidences have broken."

The main contentious issues will be tackled tomorrow. Any agreement would have to be based on international law and the principles governing bodies such as the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The recognition of Macedonia is unlikely to come up in London. The European Community, which is increasingly dominated by the Central European recognition of Slovenia, argues the Yugoslav government will interpret its stand on this issue.

However, the tense situation in Kosovo will be a main point of discussion, and all sides will call for Serbia to allow international monitors into the province. The British government, however, has shown even less enthusiasm in negotiations over this than over Bosnia and Croatia.

— Thomas dischner, page 10



## West tries to reinforce oil embargo

FROM ROGER BOYES IN ZAGREB AND DESSA TREVISON IN BELGRADE

BRITAIN and Germany are expected to take the lead at the London peace talks on Yugoslavia this week in an attempt to tighten economic sanctions against Serbia, Western diplomats said yesterday.

Many companies are still supplying goods to Belgrade and crucial deliveries are being made through Macedonia and along the Danube river. Pressure will be put on Greece to block the many oil tanker trucks that are crossing into Macedonia and then driving further to Belgrade. Romania will also be urged to monitor more closely the Russian oil shipments that are passing along the Danube into Serbia. The sanction busters are resorting to simple tricks, mainly using fake end-user certificates that suggest the goods are destined for republics other than Serbia or Montenegro. Serbian tanker trucks frequently change their

licence plates to Bosnian ones and then go to a neighbouring country to pick up a load of fuel.

Belgrade-controlled companies have also set up dummy subsidiaries in Bosnia and Macedonia, neither of which is subject to the embargo that was imposed in June, to acquire petroleum products and other goods. One measure that will be taken during the course of the London conference is the setting up of a European customs team to watch over all crossing points into Serbia.

The sanctions are, however, beginning to bite in Serbia. The country is already suffering from hyper-inflation and industrial chaos. It does not take much to make matters worse. Half a million people will be laid off work within a month or so. A shortage of raw materials and component parts is forcing many industries to close down. According to Belgrade radio, up to 250,000 Serb workers have already been sent on compulsory leave because their firms and factories have no work for them. Up to



Despairing appeal: Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, preparing to address the press in London yesterday on the eve of the Yugoslav peace conference. He says it is time for action before there are no Bosnians left, and rejects the carving up of his republic.

## Bosnian Muslims find little hope in squalor that passes for home

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN KARLOVAC, CROATIA

ONCE Karlovac sports hall resounded to the cheers of team fans. But rivalry between opponents in what was Yugoslavia has since taken a murderous turn, with victories notched up by opposing armies instead of sportsmen.

The battered building, which took direct hits during the Yugoslav federal army and Serb bombardment of Karlovac at the start of this year, has become home to 620 refugees. Most are Bosnian Muslims, nearly all women and children, their men returned to fight or work in Bosnia.

The building's windows have been shot out, the floor is lined with grubby mattresses and bedding and the air in the hall is stale. Beams of sunlight cut a path through the swirls of tobacco smoke.

A few children play, women

sit talking and in one far corner, a wan-faced old lady grimaces in pain as she tries to move on her mattress. She makes a pitiful sight.

For the younger refugees the hours drag endlessly. "I don't know how long we can stand it here," said Emira, cradling her 12-day-old baby Nada. "A baby has already died in this hall. But I don't complain."

In some ways Emira and her husband Mustafa and son Daud are among the lucky ones.

They lost everything when they left Sarajevo on foot through the woods. They do not know where their relatives are — or even whether they are alive — but they have each other.

Once a market trader,

Mustafa starts to cry as he describes the family and life he left behind in Sarajevo. "Our house was blown up on the first day of the bombardment. We have lost everything. I haven't spoken to my family for three months. I just hope there will be a chance to go abroad and work and start again."

Home for Mustafa, his wife and children is now a few bags of belongings and a bit of floor space. There are eight toilets that all the refugees share, and many people bathe in the nearby rivers.

"Labod", 40, a Muslim former fighter who was too frightened to give his real name, remarked: "The politicians in London should come here and see. None of them can know what is happening until they do."

Kosovo could become the next target of large-scale depopulation. The province's future is to be discussed today in London. Clearly, to force out nearly two million people — 90 per cent of the Kosovo population is Albanian — would be difficult. But Kosovo is considered by most Serbs as an integral part of their geography.

The isolated incidents of armed attacks are seen as a sign that measures to shift the populations are due. The policy was successful in Bosnia on account of Western apathy. Dozens are leaving, some heading for Albania, some for other European countries.

"The action is not so overt as in Bosnia, but the aim seems similar," Mr Khodja said.

## Serb extremists target Albanian peasants

FROM ROBERT SZELEY IN KRAISTE

The Marshals' Barracks, which is used by UN troops as well as Muslim and Croat forces, when he was hit.

Colonel Mark Cook of the 10th Gurkha Battalion, who is in Sarajevo as commander of the British UN contingent, was with Bell. He told BBC's One O'Clock News: "Suddenly the mortar rounds started landing among us and I looked up and found he had been hit and was lying on the ground."

Last night, John Major, the prime minister, wrote to Bell wishing him a speedy recovery, and to Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman.



David Chater, hit by sniper fire last year

## BBC war veteran Martin Bell wounded by mortar fire in Sarajevo

MARTIN Bell, the BBC's veteran war correspondent, yesterday became the latest journalist to get caught in the crossfire while covering the war in Yugoslavia when he was wounded by mortar shrapnel in Sarajevo.

Millions of television viewers saw pictures of the journalist writhing on the ground after he was hit. Bell was heard saying calmly: "Okay, I'll survive. I am alive."

Bell, 53, was taken immediately to a United Nations field hospital, where two pieces of shrapnel were removed from his stomach and groin. In a stable condition, he was evacuated later by the RAF to the Croatian capital,

Zagreb, and was expected in London early today after being flown from Zagreb in a medically equipped plane sent by the BBC. A BBC doctor and John Mahoney, the foreign news editor, were on the plane.

Fighting in the former Yugoslav republics has claimed the lives of 27 journalists since the start of hostilities last year, and the International Federation

of Journalists said yesterday that at least three times that number had been wounded or injured.

Bell, who has covered 11 wars but had never before been injured, narrowly missed being hit as he did a live interview for BBC Breakfast News in April.

Last week, an ITN camera crew, including Nigel Thompson, the husband of the news-

reader Carol Barnes, and Jim Dutton, a sound recordist, were injured in a mortar attack in Sarajevo. Sebastian Rich, an ITN cameraman, recently lost the hearing in one ear after a rocket-propelled grenade hit a window frame in a room of the Sarajevo Holiday Inn and sent a glass shard through his jaw. David Chater, now ITN's royal correspondent, was shot in the back by a sniper in Croatia last November.

Tony Hall, the BBC's director of news and current affairs, said yesterday: "Martin Bell is one of the finest television reporters of his generation. He has a personal commitment to telling the

story in what was Yugoslavia and is our longest-serving journalist in that area. He is meticulous in his thinking about his safety and the safety of others."

Bell, who has a reputation for never sending a crew anywhere he would not go, was appointed OBE earlier this year in the Birthday Honours but was unable to attend the investiture at Buckingham Palace because he could not get a flight from Bosnia.

Bell, who was wearing a flak jacket and a "lucky" white suit, had driven yesterday morning to central Sarajevo to monitor an outbreak of mortar fire and was outside

Tibet protest

Hong Kong: Tibet's government-in-exile denounced China for launching what it called a "final solution" to suppress their homeland's quest for independence by embarking on the mass settlement of Chinese in their country. (Reuters)

Sex change

Moscow: Shopkeepers running short of small change in the Russian port of Sevastopol have started to give their customers, particularly soldiers, condoms instead, in place of the more usual sweets or small packets of salt. (Reuters)

Citizen  
applause



## Texts for bad times

Michael Wright on  
a thrifty trend to  
bargain paperbacks

**J**ust now times may be hard, but they are not half so hard as they were in 1935 when Allen Lane launched his pioneering series of Penguin paperbacks. People do not buy books in recessions. Oh, they browse, they re-read, they borrow. But they rarely part with the spindulicks: not unless the book is dirt cheap. And Penguins, at a mere sixpence each, were just that. They were revolutionary.

Now comes another recession, and with it another revolution. This time it is classic fiction at a quid a throw. In other words, *A Christmas Carol* is cheaper than most greetings cards and Joyce's *Dubliners* will set you back less than a pint of Guinness. Last year Dover began to bring out its Thrift editions for a dollar apiece (95p in Britain), and last month Wordsworth Classics started churning out hefty tomes for just a pound. It is not as if paperback classics were inaccessible expensive before. On the contrary, the reader has been well served by the likes of Penguin Classics, World's Classics, and Everyman Paperbacks, which between them offer an eclectic range of titles that no bucket-shop publisher relying on massive print-run could hope to match.

**T**hese big boys are battling it out for domination of a growing student market, relying on the heavy artillery of their erudite introductions and the small-arms fire of their "Notes on the Text". But when it comes to "soft classics" — your Jane Austens, your Hardy's and your Brontës — the pound-a-time people are beginning mop up, offering texts that are no more or less reliable than those of their competitors, at a fraction of the cost, and without all the critical material.

All too often, the introductions, notes and bibliographies offered in paperback classics do more harm than good, alienating the general reader with a musty-duty whiff of academicism, holding out a false sense of "this is all ye need to know" security to the A-level nail-biter, while falling short of the depth required by the serious student.

As Paul Keegan, editorial director of Penguin Classics, puts it: "We've become over-protective, applying a kind of National Trust conservatism to the classics which can often seem ridiculous. Classics publishing has become set in certain ritualistic procedures which don't necessarily bear any relation to anything. Most people start reading a book, and if they like it, they'll read it. They don't need contextualisation, they don't need to be led by the hand. I think there is no need for introductions at all. And notes are uniformly done badly."

**S**uch honesty is reassuring after the certainties of other editorial directors, that students simply could not do without the critical baggage shovelled out for them. They dismiss the possibility of the new super-cheap editions posing much threat to their market share. "Our proper editions won't try to compete with theirs," declares Hilary Laurie at Everyman. "And do bookellers want to sell books for a pound?"

David Taylor, buying and marketing manager for Blackwell's, clearly does. "As far as we're concerned, anything that makes people buy and read more books has got to be a good thing." The sales figures for Wordsworth Classics are certainly convincing, with more than 700,000 copies already sold, and sold fast. In Yorkshire, for instance, 4,000 copies of *Wuthering Heights* went in two days. That's not bad going for a book that has already been on the market for 145 years.

As peace talks begin in London, two writers ask if there is hope of the West finding a solution

## No end to a Balkan disaster

### Arming Bosnia may prolong the war but produce a just outcome

**P**eace conferences are grand events. The food is usually excellent (the menu from Versailles in 1918 is collector's items) and the conversation is rarely boring. The London talks on the future of Yugoslavia should therefore have made for an interesting spectacle, as butchers, vicars and diplomats sit down at the same table. But the likelihood is that it will be merely a series of poorly digested dinners and tantrums rather than deals.

The reason is that peace conferences should occur at the end of war, at a point of exhaustion and surrender. This one is being staged in the thick of war, and some of the participants have barely had time to put on a clean shirt. The Serbs are smug, having captured 70 per cent of Bosnia. The Croats still consider themselves in a state of war; they too have grabbed Bosnian land and are planning ways to retake the territory they lost to Serbia last year. The Bosnian Muslims have launched a counter offensive and are searching the arms bazaars of the Arab world for new weapons. This is hardly a basis for peace: more of a half-time break.

The optimists say that since Serbia's appetite has been sated, it will now stop fighting. Since Serbian aggression started the war, there is now scope for ending it: the UN can be installed to keep the guns silent and protect minorities. The pessimists argue that the London conference is doomed to failure. There are some useful humanitarian tasks to accomplish, such as feeding and sheltering the two million refugees during the winter, and the conference will score a limited success if it can win a measure of protection for these hapless victims; but the best the diplomats can hope to do at the moment is to ameliorate the symptoms of war, and to lower the level of violence by a UN presence.

The UN has not been very successful in Croatia — where it "protects" three disputed regions — and is even less useful in Bosnia.

suggested now, in August, when the Serbs have already snatched what they want. There is no point in attacking now unless as part of a full-scale war against Serbia.

With all three parties — Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia — on a war footing, diplomacy is condemned to failure. There are some useful humanitarian tasks to accomplish, such as feeding and sheltering the two million refugees during the winter, and the conference will score a limited success if it can win a measure of protection for these hapless victims; but the best the diplomats can hope to do at the moment is to ameliorate the symptoms of war, and to lower the level of violence by a UN presence.

The great advantage of a UN "solution" to the Bosnian war is that everybody could promptly forget about the Balkans, shifting their attention again to Maastricht, and grumble when the UN

bill arrived. The UN option, however, is a substitute for real political decisions. Indeed some Croats call it "the aspirin solution", little more than a cure for a headache. The choice for the West is plain: do we allow Bosnia Herzegovina to be chopped up, in the hope that this will keep the Serbs and the Croats quiet; or do we help Bosnia to regain its state, which has after all been recognised by the European Community and the United States? The morally correct decision is obvious, but nobody in the West has a taste for war on behalf of Bosnia.

Yet there is another possibility: to supply weapons and instructors quickly to Bosnia. Both Britain and America have expressed qualms about this, arguing that there are already too many weapons in the region. But the point is to give Bosnia the opportunity to fight for itself. The UN arms embargo currently bars any such deliveries. A decision to re-arm Bosnia, as Lady Thatcher has suggested, would be a gamble

needing firm leadership and no quiescence.

Arming Bosnia would certainly prolong the war, but it would also increase the chances of a just conclusion and demonstrate that the West will resist all attempts to change frontiers by force. And since it would save our soldiers, it would satisfy those who are presently arguing that we should forget the Balkans. Arming the Bosnians, say diplomats, is "controversial"; but it is no more so than the *sub rosa* financing, training and arming of the Muslim rebels in Afghanistan.

President Alija Izetbegovic will be asking for guns at the London talks. If the West turns him down he will certainly turn to Iran and other Middle Eastern states. The West must tell the Serbian leadership that unless ethnic cleansing ends immediately, it will supply weapons to Bosnia. This may not sound like the conciliatory phraseology of a peace conference, but the fact is that there is no peace. The war rages on and the time has come to take sides. There is already blood on the tablecloth.

ROGER BOYES



Peace has no chance: Serbian aggression as seen by *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

of aggression is rarely self-evidently salutary. Poland was not a haven of democracy or racial tolerance in 1939, but it certainly was by comparison with Nazi Germany. In 1935, was it not possible that Hailie Selassie's half-naked tribesmen had provoked Mussolini's tanks and bombers?

Even in 1938, voices were raised about the boorish behaviour of the Czechs towards the Sudeten Germans, who in any case had a "democratic" right to join up with Nazi Germany if that is what they wanted. Sixty years ago, conferences were held and the League of Nations passed resolutions imposing arms embargoes on both aggressor and victim. Aggressors, however, always find friends, anxious to curry favour and deflect their ambitions, and willing to help bypass sanctions.

Today's sanctions-breakers are motivated partly by profit and partly by sympathy with Mr Milošević, but also by fear of what the Serbian army might do next. They have seen the ease with which a few gunmen and their spokesmen can create a minority-rights issue out of a peaceable tanks and bombers?

The siren voices who urge

inaction on the West and base their case on an appeal to Balkan history have added to the confusion: they talk glibly of age-old tribal wars and recall with approval the days when the jingoes in this country sided with the Sultan's bashi-bazouks in the 1870s and were prepared to fight for the Ottoman Empire.

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Throughout the world, not least

in the former Soviet Union, the West's passivity in the face of Serbian conquests has been

watched with astonishment. The West's toleration of such violence on the very borders of the EC does not encourage faith in its commitment to the authority of international law further afield.

For 18 months, President Bush has dithered about whether Iraq's survival as a state is more important than toppling Saddam Hussein's regime compliant with its ethnic cleansing programme. The uncertainty that has marked Western policy in dealing with the collapse of Yugoslavia, and its unwillingness to bring to bear its overwhelming power to impose a solution puts temptation in the path of others faced by challenges to their power and privileges from ethnically divided populations.

**H**ad today's conference been for Nato and its Pacific-rim allies alone, it might have been much more useful. They should sit down together and work out what they wish to achieve, not only in Yugoslavia but throughout the world, and should agree a programme and on how to share out the costs in money and blood.

Until the West is ready for action, pious denunciations of ethnic cleansing or military aggression will mean nothing. Until the West has worked out its aims and a clear strategy to achieve them, peace conferences will be an expensive diversion, providing merely a comfortable vantage point from which to watch the business of war and conquest.

MARK ALMOND

The author is a fellow of the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, London.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

**T**o gentlemen in England now abed, the rub of this whole tacky business is doubtless the possibility that it may well have given a terminal shake to the foundations of the House of Windsor but let me tell them that, up here at the shellshocked Rivieran front, many another hitherto sturdy edifice is wincing as its bright stucco cracks and the Provençal tiles slide from its roof. For this time, it is we out here who think ourselves accurs'd, especially if we do not hold our hands cheap.

Or, indeed, hold them at all.

Now, my own current premises lie just a few miles along the azure coast from, if I may be permitted to switch Elizabethans, those topless towers where sweet Perle was recently making herself immortal with a kiss, and while they may not be quite as swish as those which attracted the attention of the *Daily Mirror's* property correspondent, they do boast a delightful swimming pool surrounded by comfy loungers which — though a brace of fleshy rompers might find themselves sinking slowly groundwards to the accompaniment of a somewhat unromantic hiss — are more than adequate for the solo sunbather. Furthermore, the spot is seceded by oleander and bougainvillea, and the nearest houses lie half a mile away, across the valley.

And now, a word or two about breakfast. Every morning, exemplary host that I am, I leap up as the first cicada salutes the rising

sun, and run down to the village to buy croissants for the still-snoring household. English guests all, they cry that that is one of the great things about France, mmm, fresh croissants, mmm, delicious... they then nibble a corner, scattering the rest into a thousand flakes which float down to a million waiting ants, having formed fours in the garden in anticipation of a scent on the breeze, may begin marching into the house with the unnerving precision of the Waffen SS, thereby giving me the rest of the day fruitfully engaged with aerosol and dustpan instead of frittering it away by the pool.

I do not mind this at all, because of the two joyous bonuses which go with croissant-fetching. The first is that I am early enough to get my hands on the handful of English newspapers which dawn brings to our local shop, and the second is that I can get back home in time not only to have my morning swim but thereafter to dry off on a floating lilo, reading the paper before the mob have had the chance to reduce it to a tattered wodge made illegible by a combination of sun-oil and the dismembered parts of large swatted things which seem always to have their clogs popped in the middle of particularly crucial paragraphs.

And moreover, the most exquisite element of all is that the swim is nude. I do not intend to bang on anent the components of that exquisiteness, but I would

### Corridors of embarrassment

EVEN before John Major and Boutros Boutros Ghali open today's Yugoslav peace talks, there is an ominous possibility that the leaders of the warring factions will have already had their first falling out.

The Foreign Office has left each delegation to make its own accommodation arrangements, raising the distinct possibility that those seeking to exterminate each other back in the Balkans could find themselves in neighbouring hotel rooms in London.

Many of the delegations are staying at the Carlton Tower Hotel, the most popular venue during Lord Carrington's London peace talks last month. Then there were some difficult moments as leaders not officially on speaking terms kept bumping into each other in the hotel lifts.

Dr Radovan Karadžić, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, is not taking that chance, and has booked into the Langham Hilton instead. "Being more publicly conscious than most, I suspect that decision is motivated by the fact the BBC studios are only a two minute walk away," said one candid aide. Karadžić has only observer status at the conference, but still plans to get his message across. From the comfort of his specially equipped £2 million Lear jet, complete with its new state of the art communications centre, he had faxed a personal letter to all 650 British MPs, even before landing.

Yet despite the public posturing and the bloodshed back home, the leaders of the warring factions appear to get on much better privately than they are prepared to let on. Last time around, Mate Boban, the Croat former super-

yet dared to break the chain. Among those who have signed the letter and sent it on are General Sir Peter de la Billière, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, Air Marshal Sir William Wratten, Brigadier Jeremy Phipps and Alan Thomas, head of defence export services. Most have appended short messages along the line of "I don't believe this superstitious nonsense but..."

One participant, who must remain anonymous, wrote: "I pass this on in the divine belief that my luck will be blonde."

By the end of last month, the letter had begun circulating in the Northern Ireland Office, although it has not yet reached Downing Street or the Treasury. Perhaps someone had better add them to the chain double quick.

### Republic of letters

DIANA said: "Poor Charles." Fitzroy said: "Yeah, you must be lonely without him, I expect?" Their eyes met for a split second, but it was long enough for them both to know that Diana was not going to be too lonely. There would be compensation.

Yet already the book, and in particular the passage describing the demise of the Queen Mother and her deathbed confession that she never wanted to marry George VI, have failed to amuse at least one patriotic fellow author. Dame Barbara Cartland says: "I think it is appalling. It is so degrading and so wrong. It is low and common and vulgar. If we are not careful we will not have a monarchy at all. Then we would have someone like George Bush every five years, and I couldn't bear that."



### Chain mail

MILITARY strategy, superior technology and good luck are probably required in equal measure to win a war, and Whitehall's top brass is taking no chances. For more than three months, a chain letter has been circulating in the ministry of defence demanding that recipients forward it to five friends if they wish to remain healthy and wealthy. No one, it seems, has

the book to coincide with the royal scandals. It is a happy accident." Kirby insists the book is "a bit of fun", and while other writers might have had trouble, "everyone knows Sue's style from the *Adrian Mole* books."

Yet already the book, and in particular the passage describing the demise of the Queen Mother and her deathbed confession that she never wanted to marry George VI, have failed to amuse at least one patriotic fellow author. Dame Barbara Cartland says: "I think it is appalling. It is so degrading and so wrong. It is low and common and vulgar. If we are not careful we will not have a monarchy at all. Then we would have someone like George Bush every five years, and I couldn't bear that."

**LUNDI**

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● The ultimate recession handbook is published in the United States next month: *Sell Yourself to Science: The Complete Guide to Selling Your Organs, Body Fluids, Bodily Functions and Being a Human Guinea Pig*. There was a time when such practices were restricted to Third World countries. Bill Clinton will surely be asking whether George Bush's America has really stooped so low.

Johnnie 150



## ECHOES OF NAZISM

Any German should be deeply ashamed of the attacks by 1,000 neo-Nazi skinheads on a hostel for Romanian Gypsy refugees in the former East German town of Rostock. The racist violence, the chanting of "Germany for the Germans" and the cheering by onlookers are reminiscent of the anti-semitic frenzy of the Hitler days. Gypsies were also racial victims of the Holocaust.

More shocking still is the racism verging on support for the demonstrators by the local authorities. Their suggestion that the uncontrolled influx of foreigners had "released aggression in their German neighbours" evokes the worst encouragement of fanaticism. As shocked German ministers now admit, Germany's postwar reputation for liberal hospitality is at stake and action is urgently needed to protect it.

The incident, the worst in a series of ugly attempts to intimidate asylum-seekers, underlines the need both to limit the flood of new asylum-seekers and to protect those now in Germany. Last year there were 990 attacks on foreign refugees, including the fire-bombing of Third World hostels, murders and assaults. This was three times the total in 1990. The number of new refugees has grown from 250,000 to 400,000 a year, and may soon top half a million.

The growth of racism has been shown in the rise of the far right. Anti-immigration parties are now represented in three of Germany's 16 states. There are 38,000 members of groups devoted to the memory of Hitler. The Office for the Protection of the Constitution says the far right is now a greater threat than the Red Army Faction and the extreme left.

Racism is a scapegoat for economic hardship that needs little encouragement. Most attacks have occurred in former East Germany, where unification has brought soaring unemployment, social malaise and anguish over the future. In Rostock unemployment is running at 17 per cent. Unlike West Germany, the former communist government not only pretended that racism did not exist, but it did nothing to

ensure the right lessons were drawn from the Nazi period.

Helmut Kohl's government has long said that Germany's excessively liberal asylum laws were leading to social unrest that would be ever harder to control. He proposed a change in the constitution that would set tougher criteria for entry and thus discourage the wave of economic refugees who make for Germany from all over eastern Europe because they know it is the easiest European country to enter. The Social Democrats refused to cooperate, denying the government the two-thirds majority needed for a constitutional change. Some may have been playing politics; most were acting in good faith, believing that Germany, because of its past, has a special duty to show compassion.

The chancellor therefore proposed an acceleration of the processing of refugees, partly to get them out of the hostels that have become targets, partly to stop them remaining indefinitely, having avoided early eviction. He also wanted the European Community to take responsibility for a common immigration policy, to enable him to change the constitution by pleading international necessity against the social democrats.

The SPD has now conceded that its present stance is hurting the refugees and damaging German tolerance. The chances of tightening the laws in the wake of the recent attacks look brighter than before. Some 86 per cent of Germans questioned in a recent poll express abhorrence of racist attacks, but this is clearly not enough to encourage the authorities to confront the skinheads who carry them out.

Germany's neighbours cannot cast stones. They do not have half a million people of widely differing cultural backgrounds pouring in each year. But with up to two million victims of the ethnic cleansers of Bosnia soon looking for foreign refuge, Germany can no longer be the open haven of the past quarter century. The country has clearly reached the limits of its tolerance. Here is a good cause for the rest of Europe to espouse collectively.

## LIFE ASSURANCE RACKET

A doctor who prescribed useless drugs because he was bribed by the drug company would deserve to be struck off. Yet in the investment of life savings, an area as vital to happiness as health, bad advice is all too common and rarely goes punished.

Today *The Times* reports on the problems of people being sold certain life assurance policies. They are charged such high fees and commissions that if they surrender them early, they lose most or all of their money. They are sold policies that are often quite unsuitable by advisers who profit from the commissions the insurance companies pay.

Even independent financial advisers, who are supposed to have the best interests of their customers at heart, are often reluctant to advise them to leave their money on deposit in a bank or building society. They are more likely to recommend one of the many insurance-linked savings schemes in order to earn themselves commission.

The position of tied agents is even more pernicious. They can sell only the savings products of one company. A customer soliciting their advice will inevitably be pushed towards one product, which may be less attractive and more expensive than others on the market and totally unsuitable to the customer's circumstances. In a survey last year, the Securities and Investments Board found that between a quarter and third of life assurance holders terminated their policies within two years of signing up.

Because commission and fees are charged almost entirely at the beginning of the policy, people who surrender early lose almost all the money they have paid in. The salesmen themselves are paid most of their commission when the policy is first signed, so they have little financial incentive to ensure that the product suits the client.

Since the new regime of self-regulation was introduced in 1988, the opposite of what was intended has happened. Competition

has fallen, commissions have risen and value for money is down. Independent financial advisers have found it more lucrative to become tied agents. Their market share was 47 per cent in 1989; it dropped to 38 per cent in 1990 and most people expect it to stabilise at around 25 per cent.

Commissions are now between a quarter and a half as large again as the old maximum commission that was abolished. It is still hard for consumers to discover exactly how much commission they will be charged. The ideal solution would be for them to pay a standard fee for independent advice. Advisers would then be in the same position as an accountant, a lawyer or a doctor: beholden to no-one and with only the interest of the client at heart.

The British talk at paying for financial advice, even though they already do so in the form of commission, which is disguised. Transparency is what is needed. Regulators should force companies to disclose their commissions and should then publish league tables of commission charges and of performance. They should also publish the policy termination rates of different companies.

Unfortunately, the regulations show no sign of introducing the sort of firmer regulation that would encourage transparency and competition. Because the industry polices itself, this is not surprising. SIB and Lauro (the life assurance regulation) have proposed revised rules for the selling of life assurance, which are presently being considered by the Office of Fair Trading. But they simply tinker with a system of self-regulation which, because of its conflicts of interest, cannot work in the best interests of the consumer.

The OFT should reject the proposals and suggest instead that the Treasury introduce far tougher regulation, in which the public interest is preferred to that of the commission-earner and in which the hard-won savings of ordinary people cannot be abused.

## FUNDING FESTIVALS

A fascinating conundrum is supplied by today's report of the Policy Studies Institute into arts festivals. It found that they were booming. Scarcely a city or town in Britain does not boast a festival. The number has doubled since 1980 to 527, with a total turnover of over £40 million. They are now important tourism draws, so much so that organisers are becoming concerned at the proliferation of the competition. Audiences are rising, visitors are enthusiastic, and voluntary support from both artists and organisers continues to be forthcoming.

Festivals are not merely vehicles for local talent with safe programmes. The researchers found that a third of the festivals commission new work. Many, from Edinburgh and Aldeburgh to the most modest local arts weekend, are of real artistic distinction. Most make use of both professional and amateur artists and all are a lively focus of community activity. The arts festival may be easy to satirise, but it suggests a British grassroots renaissance, the arts on display at the point of sale, culture at its most customer-friendly. Yet respondents to the PSI survey, rather than glory in their public success, bemoan their lack of public subsidy. The organisers demand more financial support from central and local government. Half the festivals report themselves to be in deficit. They welcome their current expansion but appear to feel that the state, rather than booming audiences, should finance their continued growth. Are they justified in their demand?

The question of how much arts subsidy should be spent on activity outside London has an eternally delicate one. Those who have

said it, as did the Arts Council in the 1980s, were excoriated. No arts minister, certainly not the present one, will want the odium of asking it again, let alone answering it in favour of the provinces and their arts festivals. The big London institutions take the lion's share of subsidy; thus it has been ordained by Whitehall and thus it will remain.

The glory of the festivals is that, despite the perils of recession, they need not involve themselves in the subsidy debate. It is the fact that they have been demand-led that has clearly underpinned their success in the 1980s. Their programmes must reflect what their audiences — and to an extent their participants — want. Their venues, a constant source of worry to them, are likely to be whatever is available locally: churches, schools, warehouses, even tents on the common, not expensive purpose-built halls. As the report says, a festival is meant to "attract sections of the population that other arts promoters have failed to reach". For this reason, many are moving away from the traditional fare of classical music.

The excitement of a local festival lies in its freedom, in its scope to do the unexpected — and if it fails, to fail cheaply. The hundreds of thousands who attend such festivals each year may be more deserving recipients of the Arts Council's support than the big London companies. But as with amateur art, another flourishing but subsidy-deprived field of the arts in Britain, it is more likely that festivals flourish because of the absence of public subsidy than because of its presence. At the very least the arts minister should give them a generous pat on the back.

## Whose hand on the economy?

*From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)*

Sir, Your leader on the implications of the A-level results ("A-Level rat-race", August 20), fails to address the central issues raised by the low take-up of the AS examination. This is due not to a rejection of "breadth" on the part of schools but to the impracticality of the whole AS system.

As your shrewd editorial ("Crisis? What crisis?", August 24) observes, there is no sterling crisis. Yet something approaching a lynch mob has been gathering against the Chancellor for even daring to consider higher interest rates as a short-term response to a short-term problem with origins elsewhere in the international financial system.

How much more sensible it would be if the lead was taken on monetary adjustment problems of this sort not by Treasury ministers but by a strong Bank of England, acting as the central monetary authority.

We would then be rid of the notion that monetary policy can be pushed this way and that by political voices or axe-grinding professors. That would surely be much fairer on the Chancellor and much better for sterling's reputation.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID HOWELL  
House of Commons.  
August 24.

*From Mr Leolin Price, QC*

Sir, Either the exchange-rate mechanism is not working or it is working against us.

The Bundesbank, understandably in its role as Germany's central bank, is concerned to act in what it perceives as Germany's interests. Distinguished economists tell us that the present exchange-rate troubles amount to a crisis centred in Germany; but, even if the German government were to suggest to the Bundesbank that there is urgent need for policy changes affecting monetary policy and the deutschmark, the Bundesbank's vaunted independence would permit it to reject every such suggestion.

The lessons are first, that ERM is a straitjacket from which we must escape; secondly, that a central bank's independence is unacceptable. The creation of a constitutionally irresponsible body with such power should command itself only to arrogant élites who instinctively favour giving power to clever bureaucrats.

Yours truly,  
LEOLIN PRICE  
10 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.  
August 25.

*From Professor A. P. Thirlwall*

Sir, In the 1980s, when Nigel Lawson was Chancellor of the Exchequer, it was fashionable for government to say that the current account of the balance of payments doesn't matter and there is nothing special about manufacturing industry compared to service activities.

Those of us who argued otherwise were regarded as economic dunces, cut off from current thinking.

Now, with the currency increasingly fragile, manufacturing industry continuing its relentless decline and the balance of payments still in massive deficit despite two years of negative growth, would any of the trendy economists and politicians of the 1980s still care to argue that the balance of payments and manufacturing industry should be matters of benign neglect?

If we had a thriving manufacturing sector contributing to export growth and import substitution, sterling could sit perfectly happily within the current fixed bands of the exchange-rate mechanism, without the need for high interest rates to defend its value and recession would be avoidable.

There is no easy short-term solution to Britain's chronic economic malaise (not even devaluation); but more telling and worrying, no long-term solution either without an economic strategy designed to improve the performance of the trade-goods sector of the economy.

The lack of such a strategy has been the major failing of British economic policy for the last 40 years, exacerbated in the 1980s by government abrogation of virtually any responsibility for the real economy. Yours sincerely,

A. P. THIRLWALL  
University of Kent at Canterbury,  
Keynes College.  
Canterbury, Kent.  
August 25.

*Business letters, page 19*

## Role of Muslim women

*From the Imam of the London Mosque*

Sir, Matthew Paris's article, "Still the world's outcasts" (August 10), failed to appreciate the fact that all that is done in the name of Islam is not Islam.

True Islam is that which is mentioned in the Holy Koran and explained in the noble traditions of the Holy Founder. Anything not substantiated by these is not Islam. All examples quoted by Matthew Paris in his article fall into this category.

Real Islam is the true benefactor of all human beings, women and men alike.

Yours etc.,  
A. M. RASHED, Imam.  
The London Mosque,  
16-20 Gressehall Road, SW18.  
August 25.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Evaluation of A-level results and increasing exams' scope

*From the Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference*

Sir, Your leader on the implications of the A-level results ("A-Level rat-race", August 20), fails to address the central issues raised by the low take-up of the AS examination. This is due not to a rejection of "breadth" on the part of schools but to the impracticality of the whole AS system.

As your shrewd editorial ("Crisis? What crisis?", August 24) observes, there is no sterling crisis. Yet something approaching a lynch mob has been gathering against the Chancellor for even daring to consider higher interest rates as a short-term response to a short-term problem with origins elsewhere in the international financial system.

How much more sensible it would be if the lead was taken on monetary adjustment problems of this sort not by Treasury ministers but by a strong Bank of England, acting as the central monetary authority.

Your leader concludes that: "the government need look no further than to the broadening solutions proposed by Professor Gordon Higginson". This is too simplistic an approach. Since the rejection of the Higginson proposals, a great deal of constructive work has gone into the preparation of alternative proposals which would both preserve what is best in A levels and yet provide a broader "intermediate" course which would be really suitable for a wide range of ability.

The same could be said of the extensive work being done on vocational (rather than academic) routes to higher education. Furthermore, it would be strange if any future proposal were to overlook the striking recommendations made by the Howie committee in Scotland.

These represent a serious attempt to build bridges between the "British" tradition and those of other European countries, and were based on more detailed and open research than that which preceded both the introduction of AS levels and the armchair thinking which lies behind your leader.

Yours faithfully,  
DOMINIC MILROY OSB,  
Ampleforth College, York.  
August 20.

*From Professor P. D. E. P. Hughes*

Sir, As well as being expensive to timetable, AS levels are not well known in higher education. Most important, two AS levels are more demanding than a single A level. An AS is not half an A level; it is more like two thirds.

The additional burden of tackling two AS rather than one A level should be recognised by increasing the points score. I suggest that instead of the present 5.4, 3.2, 1 scale for A, B, C, D, E grades at AS level, the grades should be worth 7.5, 5.4, 3.2.

Two grade Bs at AS level would then be equivalent to a single grade A at A level and three AS

school A-level performers.

Any such "comparative" table needs to compare like with like. For the purpose of university admission, Ucas (Universities Central Council on Admissions) calculates the score for no more than three A-level passes. Thus, assigning ten points to an A grade, the maximum possible score is 30.

The school to emerge top in your table was quoted as having an Ucas score average of 28, but I suspect that this is not calculated on a three A-level basis. If there were 89 candidates and the overall pass rate was 94 per cent, a simple calculation shows that almost every A-level pass would have to be at grade A. While this is theoretically possible, any report of a school whose A-level candidates either scored A-levels or failed is highly suspect.

What is probably the case is that your average scores include candidates with four or more A levels. Additionally, passes at AS level have been incorporated as "extra points" — not how Ucas determines scores.

Unless average scores relate to a fixed, defined basic across all schools, the value of any apparent ranking order is undermined. While not disputing the achievements of the "top" schools, your comparative data may be misleading.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID WEITZMAN  
(Assistant Director),  
Cardiff Institute of Higher Education,  
Llandaff Centre,  
Western Avenue, Cardiff.

*From Mr D. E. P. Hughes*

Sir, As well as being expensive to timetable, AS levels are not well known in higher education. Most important, two AS levels are more demanding than a single A level. An AS is not half an A level; it is more like two thirds.

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Two grade Bs at AS level would then be equivalent to a single grade A at A level and three AS

levels would give a similar maximum to the present three A level pattern.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HUGHES,  
3 Woodbank Drive, Porthill,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

August 21.

*From Mr Howard Goldsobel*

Sir, There is a radical solution to the worrying imbalance in demand between the arts and sciences (report, August 21), at least so far as entry into higher education is concerned: convert the student loan into a bursary for all those who enrol on science courses.

As subject orientation at higher education level much depends on choices made at 16, any solution will necessarily take two or more years to bite. Nevertheless, the introduction of a sciences bursary would immediately harness market forces (and parental pressure) in the redress process.

Yours faithfully,  
HOWARD GOLDSOBL

18 Russell Road, Moor Park,  
Northwood, Middlesex.

August 24.

*From the President of the Society of Education Officers*

Sir, How sad that the cynics should seek to attribute this year's improved A-level results to easier papers and soft marking. Might it not be that the improvements owe something to

## SOCIAL NEWS

### Birthdays today

The Duke of Gloucester celebrates his birthday today.  
Dr Raphael Balkon, cardiologist, 56; Sir Kenneth Barnes, civil servant, 70; the Right Rev Alan Chesters, Bishop of Blackham, 55; Mrs Joan Clancy, headmistress, North London Collegiate School, 53; Major-General N.M. Foster, 83; Viscount Gough, 51; Mr S.T. Graham, former chairman, International Commodities Clearing House, 71; Sir Ian McGregor, expert on tropical medicine, 70; Mr Malcolm Pyrah, show jumper, 51; Miss Alison Steadman, actress, 46; General Sir Harry Tuzo, 75; Professor J.E. Varey, former principal, Westfield College, 70; the Right Rev Maurice Wood, former Bishop of Norwich, 76.

### Appointments

Latest appointments include: Judge Curtis, QC, Recorder of Birmingham, to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.  
Mr Michael Heald and Mr Robert Sutcliffe to be members of the Arts Council of Great Britain.  
Mr David Nissen, Legal Under Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, to be Solicitor to HM Customs and Excise. He succeeds Mr Michael Saunders, who will be Legal Adviser to the Home Office and Northern Ireland Office, from October 19.  
Mr Geoffrey Keggen Maddrell and Mr Kenneth Eric Correll Sorensen to be part-time Civil Service Commissioners.

### Forthcoming marriages

Sub Lieutenant A.C. Cole, RN and Miss V.A. Noakes  
The engagement is announced between Alan, elder son of Mr and Mrs I.A. Cole, of Brighton, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.E. Noakes, of Hove.  
Mr R.E.R. Cosidine and Miss S.J.S. Woodrow  
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mrs Phyllis Costello and the late Mr Ronald Costello, of Cookham, Berkshire, and Sarah Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Woodrow, of Tring, Hertfordshire.  
Mr K. Flemer and Miss S. Newland  
The engagement is announced between Kevin, son of Jean and William Flemer, of Virginia, USA, and Sarah, daughter of the late Edward Newstead, of London, and Wendy Newstead, of Leatherhead, Surrey. The marriage will take place at the United Nations Chapel, New York, USA, on Saturday, October 31, 1992.  
Mr R.J. Hogan and Miss T.D.A. Normand  
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.V. Hogan, of London, SE19, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs William Calum, of Tonbridge, Kent.

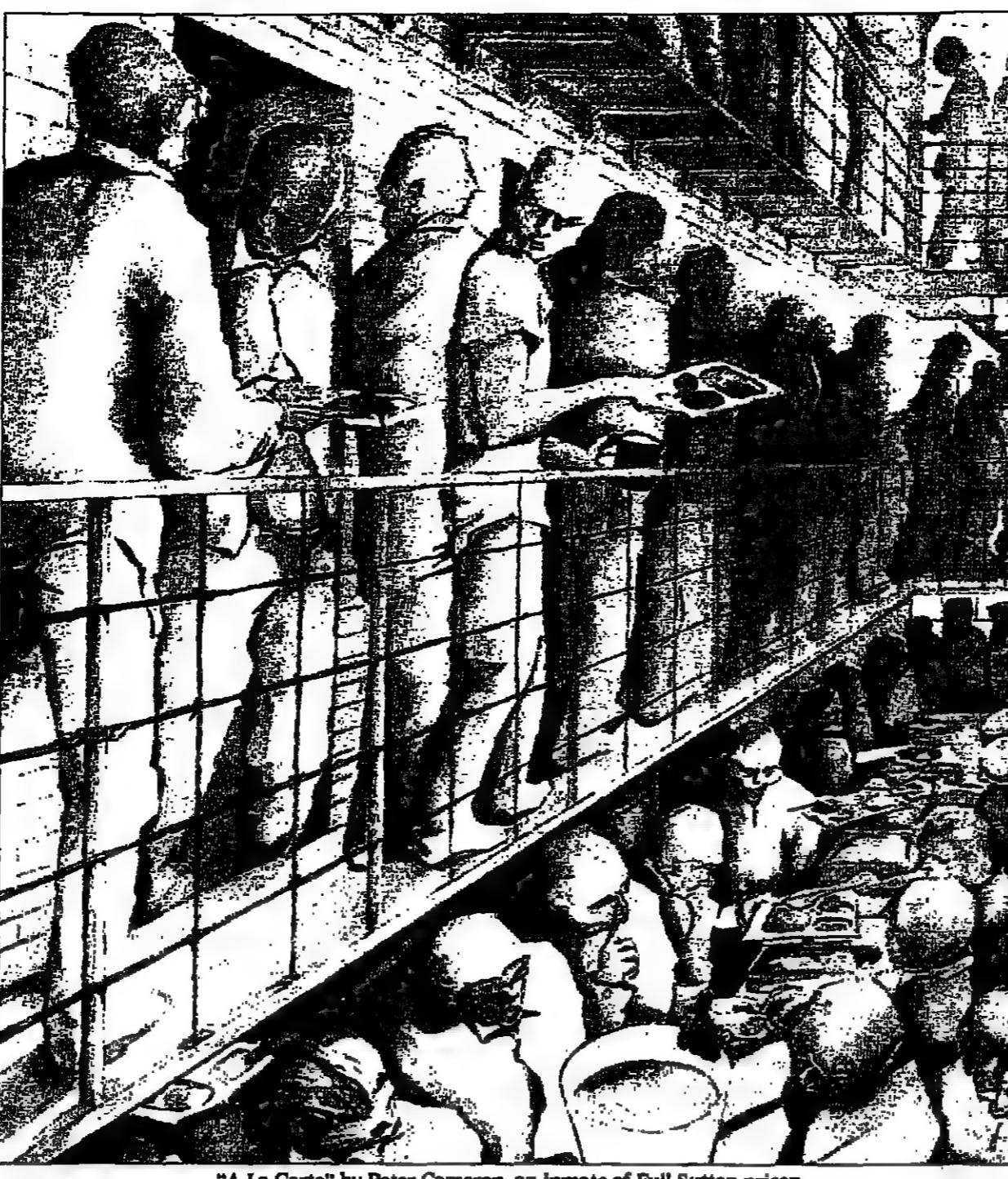
### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford, statesman, Houghton, Norfolk, 1676; Joseph Michel Montgolfier, balloonist, Annecy, France, 1740; Antoine Lavoisier, chemist, Paris, 1743; Albert, Prince Consort, Schloss Rosenau, Germany, 1819; John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, governor-general of Canada 1935-40, novelist, Perth, 1875; Christopher Isherwood, novelist, High Lane, Cheshire, 1904.  
**DEATHS:** Louis-Philippe, king of the French 1830-48, Claremont, Surrey, 1850; Lon Chaney, film actor, 1930; Frank Harris, writer, Nice, 1931; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, London, 1958; Paul Muni, actor, Hollywood, 1967; St. Francis, Chichester, yachtsman, circumnavigated the world 1966-67, Plymouth, 1972; Charles Lindbergh, first to fly solo across the Atlantic non-stop (1927), 1974; Charles Boyer, actor, 1978.

Julius Caesar landed in Britain, 55BC.  
Defeat of the French by Edward III at Crècy, 1346.

### Church news

The Ven Michael Frederick Gear, Archdeacon of Chester, has been appointed Bishop of suffragan of Doncaster. In succession to the Right Rev W.M.D. Person, who will be resigning on December 31. The Rev John Rose-Cassmore, Rector of Tidworth, Ludgershall and Faversham (Salisbury) to retire as from September 30.



"A La Carte" by Peter Cameron, an inmate of Full Sutton prison

## Prisoners 'should be able to sell art'

By SIMON TAFT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

**PRISONERS** should be allowed to sell their works of art as a way of getting back into society, Judge Tumim, the chief inspector of prisons, said yesterday.

The annual Koestler exhibition of arts from prisons and special hospitals will be opened at Smiths Galleries, Covent Garden, by John Mortimer, the writer, today.

Judge Tumim, who recommended that prisoners should be given opportunities to develop artistic skills in the recent Woolf-Tumim report

on prison disturbances, said: "We ought to think in terms of allowing prisoners to sell their work, possibly through the Koestler Foundation. There is a rule preventing prisoners from engaging in business, but if this were done in a controlled way it could mean a handful of talented artists having a means of getting back into society."

He cited the work illustrated here, *A La Carte*, by Peter Cameron, an inmate of Full Sutton prison in Yorkshire. "This man has a talent which is

mural 60 feet by 15 feet, was made by two prisoners who had to beg the paints from other parts of the prison. 'Shortage of funds in the prison service has meant that number of prisons, particularly in the south east, have closed their art departments, which is tragic,' Judge Tumim said.

## Architecture

### Breathing new life into Irish hospital

A MASTERY renovation scheme has provided new life for Ireland's first voluntary hospital, Dr Steevens', opposite Heuston Station in Dublin.

The hospital, built in 1718-33 has just reopened as the headquarters of the Eastern Health Board. Martin Gallagher, the financial director, explains: "The board's offices were spread across Dublin and we are saving £150,000 a year by bringing them together in one building."

"The whole £5million job has been done without any extra Exchequer funding. The money we were paying in rents and other overheads has gone instead towards a mortgage."

In London, St Bartholomew's and St Thomas' hospitals had reopened under lay administration following Henry VIII's suppression of the monasteries, but in Dublin, the hospital of St John the Baptist, leased for a time to a local surgeon, had not flourished like its London counterpart.

The situation was becoming desperate when in 1710 Dr Richard Steevens, president of the College of Physicians, bequeathed his entire estate to found a hospital.

The architect was Thomas Burgh, surveyor general of His Majesty's Fortifications in Ireland, best known for his

### Marsham Street folly

"radical social housing in this quarter".

GCHP Architects argue that during the existence of the DOE "the quality of urban life has got worse and environmental problems have grown in their seriousness." Aiming to develop a polemic on urban life they propose to retain parts of the DOE in skeletal form, grafted on to a centre for environmental research.

The precedent of Les Halles, the former Paris food market is little explored, though the concept developed there of short and offices in sunken courtyards beneath the street level public garden might be the ideal substitute for the Marsham Street towers.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last year love descended on me, Let your love descend on me, As you pass by, Please remember that I shall have an answer to the hands aimed at me because I trust in your word. Psalm 119:44-46 RRS

### BIRTHS

ARMFIELD - On August 24th, at Queen's Convent, to Captain and Mrs R. J. Armfield, daughter, Lavinia Alice Hamilton.

BAMFORD - On August 10th, to Angela (née Margrave) and their son, a son, William James Edward.

BEER - On August 24th 1992, to Naomi and Dominic, a son, Joshua Michael, a brother for Charles.

BRYDGES - On August 22nd, to Marilyn (née Klompus) and their daughter, Catherine Sydne, a son, for Kemp.

BUREAU - On August 21st, to Fiona (née Smith) and James, a son, Henry James Marlow.

CODRINGTON - On August 19th, 1992, to Ursula and Stephen, a son, Rory Alan, a son, a brother for Kate, Hugo and Tomas.

DEARMAN - On August 24th in Jersey to Rosemary Ruthven and Anthony, a daughter, Georgia Emily Alice.

FOSH - On August 22nd, to John and Sandra (née Scallan), a son, John Arthur, a brother for Emily.

SAUTTER - On July 16th, to Gillian (née Gunby) and Edmund, a daughter, Victoria Louise.

THOMPSON - On Monday August 17th, to Dennis, a daughter, Linda, and her husband, Brian.

WESTBY - On August 20th, 1992, to Rosemary and Nicholas, a daughter, Susannah Marie.

### MARRIAGES

HARVEY-BAILEY - Lorna and Robie were married in Brixton, Lambeth, on Tuesday. All love Dove and Gervais.

DEATHS

BROOKS-WARD - On August 22nd, peacefully at Merross Farm, Portscatho, Cornwall. Roy, aged 83 years, beloved husband of Dorothy, mother of Simon, James and Nicholas. Family funeral at St Just-in-Penwith, Cornwall, Thursday August 27th. No flowers, but donations if desired to St Just Church and/or the Falmouth Ambulance Service, Trevelgue, West Downs, Delabole, Cornwall PL33 9DY. A Memorial Service will be held on a later date.

### DEATHS

COLBOURN - On August 26th, 1992, at Caledon Hall, Sybil Edward of Caledon Hall, Nunleath, peacefully aged 86 years.

COOPER - On Tuesday September 1st at 2pm followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers may be sent to D. Cooper, Funeral Directors, 1-2 Wembury Road, Wembury, Devon.

DRAKE - On August 27th, 1992, tragically in a car accident, Natasha Penelope Drake, aged 16 years, much-loved daughter of Robert and Natalie of Robert and Natalie of Dartmoor, Hause, 11 Gladstone Road, Barry, South Gloucestershire, GL1 4EP.

FRITH - On August 27th, 1992, peacefully at home in Bath, after a brave fight against cancer, Rosemary, very dear wife of Neville, and beloved mother of Frances and grandmother of Peter, Carol, Fiona and Dorothy, and grandmother of Peter, Carol, Fiona and Dorothy, and granddaughter of Peter, Carol, Fiona and Dorothy.

GARRETT - On August 27th, 1992, peacefully at home in Bath, after a brave fight against cancer, Rosemary, very dear wife of Neville, and beloved mother of Frances and grandmother of Peter, Carol, Fiona and Dorothy, and granddaughter of Peter, Carol, Fiona and Dorothy.

GIBSON - On August 27th, 1992, peacefully at home in Bath, after a brave fight against cancer, Rosemary, very dear wife of Neville, and beloved mother of Frances and grandmother of Peter, Carol, Fiona and Dorothy, and granddaughter of Peter, Carol, Fiona and Dorothy.

GILBERT - On August 27th, 1992, peacefully at home in Bath, after a brave fight against cancer, Rosemary, very dear wife of Neville, and beloved mother of Frances and grandmother of Peter, Carol, Fiona and Dorothy, and granddaughter of Peter, Carol, Fiona and Dorothy.

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• COMMERCIAL PROPERTY 21

# BUSINESS TIMES

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 1992

**SPORT**  
22-26

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

## Big British companies will lose millions from \$2 pound

By PATRICIA TEFAN

**BRITISH** companies stand to lose £75 million in export profits and an extra £200 million from currency translation for each 10 cent fall in the dollar against sterling, according to figures from Doug McWilliams, economic adviser to the Confederation of British Industry.

He warned that all large UK firms will be affected by the \$2 pound, either from the impact on exports as demand weakens and profit margins are hit, or from the effect of translating weak dollar profits into sterling. Professor McWilliams believes Britain's big exporters that are competing with Ameri-

can companies on price, will all be hurt. Industrialists yesterday voiced their concern that this year's profits will be damaged.

Half of Hanson's operating profits come from America. In the year to September 30 1991 America contributed £493 million of Hanson's £955 million operating profits. Yesterday a Hanson director said: "Clearly the translation of dollar denominated operating profits is adverse when the currency declines. But there are knock-on effects in terms of making exports from the US." In addition, he said, it will lower the company's interest bill for dollar denominated borrowings. However, "On balance it will be negative rather than positive" he

said. Stephen Brown, chief executive at Tate & Lyle, the sugar group where more than half of profits are made in America, said every one cent appreciation of the pound against the dollar will reduce profits after tax by between £300,000 and £400,000 a year as well as reducing the value of its North American assets. He said there will be little effect on cash flow because "We use our cash generated in North America to pay interest on our debt and also to reinvest. Although we have a high percentage of earnings in the US we also raise almost all our debt there, so there is a natural hedge."

Mr Brown added: "If we thought that it was a long term situation then we would be

concerned" about the longer-term economic effect on the company. "But at the moment we regard it as an accounting situation", he said.

David Nash, finance director at Grand Metropolitan, the drinks group, said the company has forward cover in place to protect it from most of its exposures but said currency translation will wipe between £8 million and £9 million off pre-tax profits for every five cent fall in the value of the dollar.

Research from Philip Wostenroth, Smith New Court's market strategist, shows drug companies are likely to be worst hit. But he says many companies will benefit from lower commodity prices. Wellcome esti-

mates that every one cent movement of dollar/sterling rates affects pre-tax profits by £1.5 million. ICI, which has one third of its earnings from America, expects to suffer in terms of earnings translation, but believes the damage to profits will be offset to some extent by advantages gained in terms of buying dollar denominated commodities.

Britain's biggest manufacturer, British Aerospace, says it is protected from fluctuations in the dollar by currency hedging. BAe's all-important Al Yamamah Saudi Arabian defence contract is, however, vulnerable as the company is paid in the proceeds of oil sales. BAe is hedged at \$1.50 to \$1.70 over the next 18 months.

## Worries over Maastricht damage sterling

By COLIN NARROUGH AND WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

**CENTRAL** banks across Europe stand ready to attack the mark after its steady advance that yesterday pushed the pound and other currencies close to their absolute floors in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

Forceful intervention to thwart the progress of the mark, deploying the central banks' huge reserves, will be the first line of defence against the mounting pressure the German currency is exerting on the rest of the party grid. Only if intervention fails to force the mark to retreat are the British and other governments expected to bite the bullet and raise domestic interest rates.

Sterling dropped sharply to a low of DM2.7812 yesterday afternoon, its weakest since ERM entry in autumn 1990, after an opinion poll that showed 51 per cent of the French were ready to vote against ratification of the Maastricht treaty. Sterling's absolute floor against the mark, anchor currency of the ERM, is DM2.7780.

The stock market continued to suffer from fears about weaker sterling and the threat of a base rate increase from the current 10 per cent. The FTSE 100 index, down 50 at one point, closed 30.1 lower at 2,281. Gilt-edged stocks ended about a half point down after a volatile day before yesterday's auction.

In the money market, the three-month interbank lending rate closed 1/8 firmer at 10 1/4 per cent. This indicated expectations that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will be forced to raise the base rate by about a full point.

After the Chancellor called on John Major to discuss the current situation, the Treasury made it clear that the govern-

ment remains committed to its ERM band and rules out any devaluation of sterling. Current pressures, in the government view, represent a "mark problem", a spokesman said.

When sterling reaches its mark floor, which currency analysts think likely today, the Bank of England will be obliged to sell marks for pounds, drawing down its currency warchest of \$45 billion at the last count. The Bundesbank is also obliged under ERM rules to supply unlimited marks to replenish the British supply.

A later French poll, which pointed to 51 per cent in favour of the Maastricht treaty, helped the pound to regain some ground. At the official London close at 4pm, sterling was back at DM2.7923.

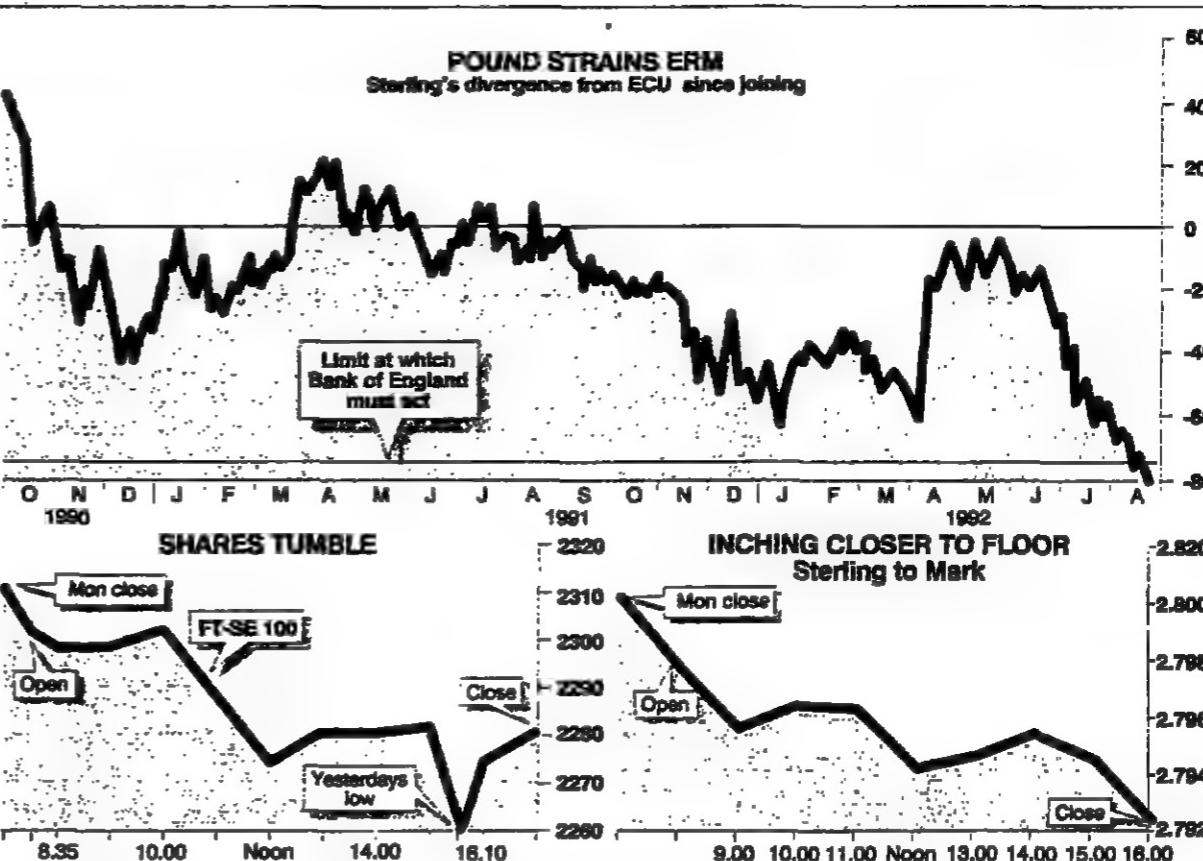
Although no intervention was detected yesterday from most leading central banks, the Bank of Italy stepped in to support the lira at the fixing.

The Portuguese and Spanish authorities were also obliged to step in to prop up their currencies. The Belgian franc, meanwhile, climbed to the top of the ERM yesterday, overtaking the peseta.

The dollar, whose virtual free fall last week unleashed the current turbulence in world foreign exchange markets, had a surprisingly good day, despite the absence of support action. In London, it closed at DM1.4025, having been as low as DM1.3940 during the day. Against the pound, the dollar closed slightly firmer than on Monday at \$1.9935.

Interest rates may have to rise in Britain, Italy, and possibly even in France, according to European financial analysts, after French opinion polls yesterday pointed towards a dead heat in the

Comment, page 19



## £280m Canary Wharf claim rejected

By ANGELA MACKAY

**ERNST & Young**, Canary Wharf's administrator, has rejected a £280 million claim from Credit Suisse First Boston relating to the Wall Street bank's building in the scheme in Cabot Square. The bank has been told by the administrator that it will have to pursue its claim in the courts.

A meeting of creditors of Olympia & York Canary Wharf Ltd was told yesterday that a CSFB subsidiary, Glenstreet Property Development, had tried to bring the claim as an unsecured creditor. One of the administrators, Stephen Adamson, said the claim had been rejected because it was based on "certain contingencies" that had to be adjudicated by a court.

CSFB bought a 999-year lease on the 550,000 sq ft building, known as FC1, and are scheduled to move in at the beginning of next year. Last night, CSFB was unable to

comment on the claim. About 250 of a possible 650 unsecured creditors to the main trading company attended the meeting and agreed to continue the process of administration. Canary Wharf was placed in administration in May owing at least £625 million after O&Y, its parent, failed to reschedule its debts of £1 billion.

The administrators said

that while the attending creditors were owed £52 million, the project's banks have estimated that of the £567 million they are owed, about £70 million is unsecured.

In June, the administrators

said they had six interested parties but since then, one of them, Hanson, had withdrawn. Only one cash bid, put

together by O&Y's founder Paul Reichmann, is on the table from a group of Wall Street financiers. But the banks are reticent about the proposal because it involves a reshuffling of creditor priority.

Professional costs of the administration were between £800,000 and £900,000 a month. Of the £10 million provided by the club banks to fund the administration until the end of the year, £8 million is still available, Mr Adamson said. The administrators have not let new space since their appointment, but Mr Adamson said they had made offers relating to more than 1 million sq ft.

## British Gas makes second-quarter loss

Comment, page 19



# Hongkong Bank group races ahead despite bad debts

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

HSBC Holdings, the parent of Hongkong Bank, has shrugged off huge Olympia & York bad debt provisions to race to a 39 per cent advance in interim pre-tax profits for the six months to end June. The first-half results are the last before the inclusion of consolidated results from Midland Bank, acquired in July.

HSBC said it had made provisions of US\$188 million against its total exposure to O&Y of US\$768 million, slightly lower than the US\$787 million figure given in June.

Total bad debt provisions

rose 63 per cent to HK\$4.48 billion (£305 million). General provisions had been increased "in view of the uncertain world outlook", HSBC said. It added that the proposals for the restructuring of Olympia & York were being closely monitored and "additional specific provisions will be made in the remainder of the current year if deemed appropriate".

Most of HSBC group's exposure to O&Y, some US\$750 million, is secured by controlling stakes in Aribil-Price Inc and Gulf Canada Resources. Asked whether HSBC expected to recover the Olympia & York loans, William Purves,

the chairman said: "Well I'm always hopeful. I'm an optimist at heart but it's too early to say."

Rod Barrett, an analyst at Goldman Sachs, the investment banking group, said: "The provisions were a bit higher than expected." He said he had expected the O&Y provision to come through in the second half, but that operating profits were sufficiently strong to take the hit now.

Overall, the results came in at the top end of expectations and were welcomed by analysts. In London, the ordinary shares rose 3p to 308p before falling back to close at 306p. One London broker said: "It's about the only bit of blue on the screen."

Profits before tax were HK\$7.67 billion, up from HK\$5.51 billion for the same period last year. The interim dividend was increased 30 per cent, far higher than expected, to HK\$0.705 (4.8p) from HK\$0.54.

The group has forecast a final dividend of no less than 9.4p, making 14.2p for the year, in line with market expectations. Net profits rose 51 per cent to HK\$5.03 billion.

HSBC, which beat off Lloyds Bank to snatch control of Midland, is already incorporated in Britain and plans to move its headquarters to London. "Measures designed to achieve the benefits of the merger have already started and are proceeding well," HSBC said.

The group added that "with

new signs of imminent recovery in the major industrialised economies the outlook for the rest of 1992 remains uncertain. Most of the South East Asian economies, however, are expected to enjoy continued growth and in Hong Kong the momentum is likely to be maintained, although current trade disputes between the USA and China are a cause for concern".

HSBC said weighed risk assets had fallen slightly at June 30 compared with the end of last year. The overall capital ratio strengthened as a result of higher net reserves. Tier one and total capital ratios were 9.4 per cent and 12.6 per cent respectively.

The Bank of Japan's monthly economic review, published yesterday, showed the economy still slowing, reflecting weaker consumption growth and slow stock adjustment by industry. The bank said severe production cutbacks will probably be prolonged in most industries.

## Brierley bids for Gibbs Mew

BY OUR CITY STAFF

GIBBS Mew, a brewer and property developer based in Salisbury, Wiltshire, has received a takeover offer from its largest shareholder, Brierley Investments, valuing it at £1.1 million.

The 200p-a-share offer compares with yesterday's opening share price of 183p. Brierley said the offer represented a 45 per cent premium to the Gibbs Mew share price before Brierley's July announcement that it was considering bidding for the 80.3 per cent of the company it did not already own.

The Gibbs board said it had "no hesitation in unanimously

rejecting the offer", which significantly undervalued assets and prospects. Shareholders were advised to take no action. The Gibbs family and the board own 50 per cent of the company's shares.

But Stephen Bellamy, a director of BIL Consultants (UK), Brierley's UK subsidiary, said: "We believe that Gibbs Mew has repeatedly failed to deliver on its opportunities, as is shown by its disappointing record. Unless appropriate action is taken to address Gibbs Mew's weak market position and poor profit outlook, a further decline in profitability, share

price and shareholder value is inevitable."

Brierley appealed to the Gibbs family to act in all shareholders' interests. It claimed that Gibbs Mew's share price had underperformed the brewing and distilling sector by 71 per cent between January 1, 1989, and July 29, 1992, and that the company's increasing involvement in property had harmed its brewing interests.

In the year to March 31, Gibbs Mew made pre-tax profits of £633,000 (£673,000) on turnover of £20.1 million (£17.4 million) and earnings per share of 11.9p (11p).

**Derby falls**

Derby Group made an annual pre-tax profit of £285,000 (£1.51 million). A final dividend of 8p (2.1p) makes 1p (3.3p).

## Trimoco profit

Trimoco forecasts that interim pre-tax profits will not be less than £1.2 million (£250,000 loss) and that the total dividend for the year will be maintained at 1p.

## Kerry ahead

Kerry Group made an interim pre-tax profit of Ir£10.6 million (£10 million), against Ir£9.01 million last time and is paying an interim dividend of 79p (0.75p).

## Saab cuts loss

Saab Automobile's interim loss fell to 800 million kronor (£78 million), compared with a loss of 1.59 billion kronor.

## Astra rises

Interim pre-tax profits at Astra of Sweden rose 33 per cent to 2,326 million kronor (£22 million).

**Undated**

**INDEX-LINKED**

	1992 High Low	Price Stock	1992 High Low	Stock	Price +/-	1992 High Low	Price Stock
<b>SHORTS (under 5 years)</b>							
100% 100% Bank 13/6 1992	100%	100%	12.60	12.60	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 1993	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 1994	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 1995	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 1996	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 1997	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 1998	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 1999	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2000	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2001	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2002	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2003	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2004	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2005	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2006	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2007	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2008	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2009	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2010	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2011	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2012	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2013	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2014	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2015	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2016	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2017	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2018	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2019	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2020	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2021	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2022	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2023	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2024	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2025	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2026	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2027	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2028	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2029	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2030	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2031	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2032	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2033	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2034	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2035	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2036	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2037	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2038	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2039	100%	100%	1.80	1.80	100/-	100	100/-
100% 100% Bank 13/6 2040	100%	100%	1.80</				

## STOCK MARKET

# Sterling weakness punishes shares

INVESTORS in the equity market had to contend with another turbulent session as pressure for a rise in bank base rates increased. Further weakness in the pound and bearish news combined to drag prices lower. At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index was down another 50.5 points, before eventually rallying to finish 30.1 points lower at 2,281, a two-day fall of 84 points.

Trading remained thin and nervous, with the turnover of 537 million shares swollen by a £140 million programme trade carried out the previous evening by Smith New Court. The market-makers remained in full control, marking prices sharply lower every time the latest rumour or piece of bad news found its way into the marketplace.

An early rumour, originating from the options market, suggested that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, had resigned. This was quickly denied by the Bank of England. Then came the news from France that one of three polls on the Maastricht treaty referendum indicated a "no" vote, the others being marginally in favour.

This put renewed pressure on the pound, which briefly

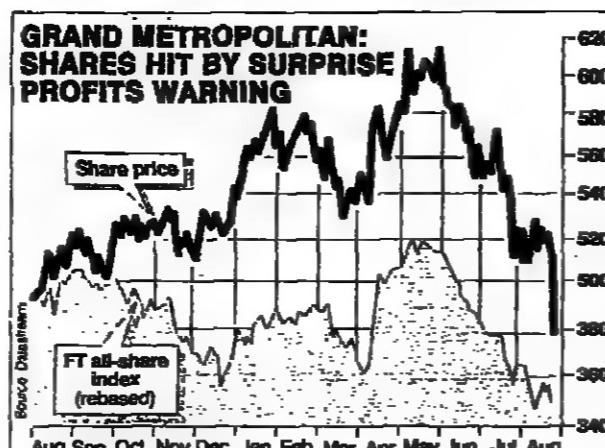
dipped below 2.79 marks, adding to the flow of opinion suggesting that a rise in interest rates was imminent.

The activity in the foreign exchange market also pulled the rug from under the futures market, which fell to 2,269 before rallying. Sentiment was also dented by an opening fall of about 20 points on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average later managed to claw back its earlier losses. This also enabled London to recover some of its poise before the close.

Leading shares, especially those with a dollar flavour, again came under the hammer. ICI fell 15p to £10.74. Glaxo 12p to 689p, Wellcome 12p to 792p and Courtaulds 23p to 429p.

Dealers also had to contend with several profit warnings from leading companies. British Gas dropped 9p to 236p after cutting tariffs to its 18 million domestic customers by a further 2 per cent and giving a warning that pre-tax profits for the full year are likely to fall short of those achieved last time.

The news coincided with a 29 per cent drop in net income to £637 million in the first half after the company dropped



into the red during the second quarter. Chairman Robert Evans there would be a profits shortfall unless consumption was boosted by colder weather.

for 1992 will be virtually in line with last year's figure of £950 million. It blamed the recession and the weaker dollar. The forecast was made

earlier this autumn. Grand Metropolitan, the drinks and food group, tumbled 34p to 378p, also after issuing a warning that pre-tax profits

were to pay a final dividend of 7.7p, after the group announced a \$600 million fixed-rate, debt-refinancing operation.

GrandMet has promised to

make a rise of 8.4 per cent. But this failed to impress brokers, who had already pencilled in pre-tax profits of about £1.1 billion. The board met BZW at lunch to outline its position. Kleinwort Benson, the broker, remains a buyer of GrandMet and rival brokers, County NatWest and Smith New Court, are urging their clients to take advantage of the weakness to buy the shares.

The news from GrandMet also hit the rest of the drinks sector, with Bass easing 7p to 495p in the wake of a downgrading by Kleinwort Benson.

There were also falls for Allied-Lyons, 12p to 560p, Greenalls, 14p to 333p, Sopwith & Newcastle, 8p to 415p, Vaux Group, 7p to 153p, Whitbread A, 13p to 377p.

The one bright spot in the drinks sector was Gibbs Mew, the USM-quoted regional brewer, which jumped 15p to 198p after a bid approach from Brierley Investments, headed by Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand businessman. He plans to offer 200p a share, and already owns a stake in the company. But the Gibbs Mew board, accounting for 59 per cent of the shares, rejected the offer.

The weaker dollar also took its toll on British Steel, down 2.2p to 49.1p, as County NatWest reiterated its bearish stance. County warns that a depressed dollar will result in prolonged economic stagnation in Europe and also make it difficult for European producers to reverse the trend in steel prices.

Meyer International, the timber and building supplies group, fell 13p to 24.3p. There is talk that one leading broker is warning clients today of a cut in the dividend.

The insurance composites remained under a cloud as Hurricane Andrew continued to wreak havoc in southern American states.

Insurance claims are expected to soar, with one estimate putting the damage in Florida at more than \$20 billion. There were losses for Commercial Union, 5p to 44.8p, General Accident, 8p to 40.9p, Guardian, Royal Exchange, 3p to 12.6p, and Sun Alliance, 7p to 21.7p. But Royal Insurance, which fell sharply on Monday on suggestions that it had the biggest exposure to America, rallied 3p to 14.8p.

MICHAEL CLARK

# Consumer report hits shares in New York

New York — Shares were lower in choppy, late-morning trading after an unexpected weak consumer confidence figure for July and some bearish news for the dollar erased earlier gains. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 8.17 points to 3,220, having been as low as 3,207 and as high as 3,235.

Tokyo — Prices ended lower in seesaw trading, with the Nikkei index fluctuating. The Nikkei fell 247.19 points, or 1.49 per cent, to 16,380.77. Turnover dropped to about 400 million shares, compared with 564 million on Monday.

Frankfurt — An atmosphere of gloom sent the market plunging another 2 per cent to a new 18-month low. The Dax index fell 29.83 points to 1,463.91, its lowest close since February 8, 1991.

Hong Kong — Shares finished lower on a renewed bout of overseas selling that wiped out earlier bargain-hunting efforts at midday. The Hang Seng index ended down 99.44 points, or 1.84 per cent, at 5,291.49.

Sydney — The share market closed at its lowest level in 14 months. The all-ordinates index fell 22.2 points to 1,517.3, its lowest close since June 28, 1991. (Reuters)

## TEMPOS

# GrandMet finds itself running to stay still



Dollar earner: Sir Allen Sheppard of GrandMet

AS one of Britain's biggest dollar earners, GrandMet's trading statement served as a timely reminder that the forthcoming reporting season may contain some unpleasant surprises from the other side of the pond.

Sir Allen Sheppard's warning that pre-tax profits in the year to end-September were likely to be around last year's figure of £950 million, rather than the £1 billion plus that the stock market was hoping for, was enough to knock 33p off the share price and was a significant contributor to the FT-SE 100's pre-Wall Street fall of 30 points. Where GrandMet leads, others are likely to follow.

The warning accompanied news that GrandMet was prudently converting another \$600 million of short-term debt into fixed-rate, long-term securities. The refinancing means that the percentage of GrandMet's £2.4 billion borrowings that mature in more than five years rises from 15 per cent to over 25 per cent.

Prudent the refinancing may have been, but it was overshadowed by the trading update. The good news was that sales at Pillsbury, the American food subsidiary, were 7 per cent up on a year ago. The bad news was that

margins, particularly at Green Giant, the frozen and tinned food business, are under massive pressure, hit by an over supply of vegetables and a price war.

Also hit hard has been Pearle, the eye care group, where reports of a spring recovery in sales are likely to prove expensively short-sighted. In Britain, Chef & Brewer continues to be hit by a recession that has seen beer sales fall 10 per cent in parts of the South-East.

At 379p, the shares are on a price/earnings multiple of over 12, which is double cover of 2.5 times and interest cover of over 10 times, looks attractive.

## Graseby

GRASEBY has changed its spots since it was Cambridge Electronics Industries, and has on the 1992 drawing boards several potentially profitable, and promising, product developments.

The group acquired Tace and Gorring Kerr in 1991, and is a leader in the field of identifying foreign objects in food — a growing market under tougher health legislation. Graseby is working on the definitive detection of Semtex, the explosive, while

its expertise in emission monitoring, widely applied within the pulp and paper industry, is now being deployed in American utilities with a clean-up budget of \$100 million. But the end of the Gulf war and reduced world ten-

sion have inevitably checked the group's defence profits. The general recession has also taken its toll.

Pre-tax profits at £4.56 million for the six months to end June compare with £5.08 million previously. The inter-

im dividend is held at 3.3p a share but year-end profit forecasts have been lowered and nagging doubts about this year's final have surfaced. Because interest cover is a respectable five times, Graseby is relaxed about gearing which is likely to be 70 per cent at year end. Property sales, asset disposals and a reduced head count will assist costs, and if certain defence contracts are won the year's outcome may not be so dull.

But some profits setback is inevitable, and £9.5 million against £10.3 million would leave a maintained 10.9p dividend thinly covered. At 133p, down 34p, the 10.9 per cent yield lends some support to a share that will shine once economies improve.

## Bridon

THERE must be a touch of sympathy for Bridon, the Doncaster manufacturer of wire rope products, which has quite innocently been caught up in corruption inquiries in Italy. Not that Bridon has done anything wrong, far from it. But it seems that Italian contractors, fearing they may not be paid if inquiries into alleged corruption by Italian public officials bear fruit, have put their

orders with Bridon on hold. As far as John West, the chairman, is concerned, this in part explains Bridon's lack of headway.

Pre-tax profits improved to £700,000 (£100,000) in the half year to end-June on turnover of £162.5 million (£161.6 million), but the gains do not reflect any easing of the gloom. Sales are down in Sweden, America and Australia. The only solution, it seems, is to sweat it out while doing a bit of pruning. Staff numbers were reduced 13 per cent to 4,700 at a cost of £4 million in the last financial year, and the company says more cuts are inevitable.

Ironically, it is lower redundancy costs of £500,000 in the past six months — compared with an exceptional item of £2.7 million last time — that are behind the gains in pre-tax profits and boosted earnings per share to 1.3p (0.2p). The interim dividend falls to 1.25p (2.5p) a share. Bridon expects to be one of the last out of the recession, so shareholders are in for a long wait.

The company is expected to make £2 million for the year and pay a total dividend of 4p, putting the shares on a new prospective yield of 9.5 per cent at yesterday's price of 56p, down 1p.

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## Franc and lira in ERM trouble too

Should the French vote "no" to the Maastricht treaty, John Major and Norman Lamont seem likely to face a simple alternative: either they raise interest rates or resign. Even with nearly four weeks to go before the referendum, opinion polls showing the French equally divided sent a simple message to the foreign exchanges to buy marks, pushing sterling within a pfenning of its limit against the key currency and even nearer its limit against the Belgian franc. The Chancellor has absolutely rejected leaving the ERM or devaluing sterling within it. The prime minister has committed himself to maintaining a DM2.95 central parity whatever happens to other currencies. The market, however, thinks the pound's rate against the mark is commercially unrealistic.

The trickier question facing Major and Lamont is whether to rely on the reserves or raise interest rates temporarily before the referendum. Since the government is so wholly committed to sterling's parity, the Bank of England should regard buying pounds with the foreign exchange reserves as offering, eventually, a certain profit. The Bank was buying selectively yesterday rather than mounting large-scale support. If sterling fell to its limit, the Bank can borrow virtually without limit from the Bundesbank and other ERM central banks to fulfil its obligation to buy, but only for three months. The risk is that an eventual interest rate rise might have to be larger and reserves would be depleted.

The Chancellor's potential trump card, however, is that sterling is no longer the only ERM currency in trouble. The lira, weakest of the currencies in the narrow band, is right up against its cross limits in the grid and the French franc is also entering the danger zone. A French "no" would almost certainly trigger a run to the mark against the currencies of all ERM countries outside the closely linked Benelux countries. They should press the Bundesbank to take the referendum risk with a temporary cut in German interest rates. If the Germans say no, they will have to face a flood of marks created by intervention that will need to be sterilised. They will also be shown to be inviting, in the most positive way, French rejection of the treaty. The Bundesbank may be independent. It is not meant to act as a political force.

## Humble gasmen

**B**RITISH GAS, in the limbo of a full monopolies commission enquiry, sought to please everyone yesterday — its shareholders with a decent dividend increase and its customers with a further price cut that need not have been brought in until sometime next year. Even Cedric Brown, the new chief executive conceded yesterday that British Gas's traditional image of being "bureaucratic, slow to change and averse to competition may be based on some reality". He expressed no doubt that the company will change in the future.

In the hands of the monopolies commission it almost certainly will, but the regulatory imminence already shows. British Gas, unlike the electricity industry, was privatised in one huge jump and sold itself in the prospectus as the "largest integrated gas supply business in the western world". But the giant is being humbled and 30 per cent of the industrial supply market has already been lost. Mr Brown said that British Gas was "not risk free". He identified the risks as weather, competition and recession. However, the cost cutting will have to go on hold. He said that for the next nine to twelve months British Gas would be "fiddling around the edges in terms of cost cutting, which is unfortunate because there are things we need to do and should be doing". Despite the handicap he looks certain to make the best of what the monopolies commission leaves behind.

William Kay takes a close look at the problems, created by competition, recession and diversification, facing the retailer

**T**oday, W H Smith is the latest leading retailer to report on how it is weathering the recession. It does so against a steady tricke of selling that has taken the group's share price dangerously near to its low point for the year.

The reasons for investor anxiety are not difficult to fathom. As the country's premier retailer of small luxuries and nonpareille necessities, it is more exposed than most to the brunt of the recession. And since the 1960s it has had to fight an increasingly tense struggle with competitors whose greatest advantage is that they have not been around for 200 years.

These pressures are only exacerbated by its other activities: newspaper wholesaling, office supplies, do-it-yourself stores and American hotel and airport shops. Paul Morris of Goldman Sachs, the analyst with arguably the closest knowledge of the group, says: "They are tied to the economic cycle and that is still pointing downwards."

Sir Simon Hornby, the group's chairman for the past ten years, is not one to be bogged down in short-term considerations, however. "If you look at our business overall, I feel very optimistic," he insists. "We are in a deep recession, but I see growth potential in all our businesses. You have to have the confidence to say that on the other side there is a bright future. I never believe in doing things if you don't see a bright future."

Sir Simon, an elegant product of Eton, Oxford, Harrow and the Grenadier Guards, has presided over one of the most difficult decades in the group's history. His family is intimately tied up with that history: his grandfather joined the firm 99 years ago.

The company's tale is a long and romantic one — it celebrates its bicentenary this year. The Times, founded seven years earlier, was leading the huge expansion of the London press at that time, effectively creating the newsagents' trade.

That prospect attracted Henry and Anna Smith, parents of William Henry, the eponymous W H. They took a shop in Little Grosvenor Street and established what was then termed a newswalk — the equivalent of today's paper round. Henry died within a fortnight and William Henry was only 24 when Anna died.

W H rapidly expanded the operation, branching out into other parts of London and later seizing on the opportunity to establish bookshops on station platforms when the railway network was laid down from the 1840s onwards.

So Smith was one of the first national retail names to be embedded in the British public consciousness. The timing of the company's



Long-sighted: in spite of the recession, Sir Simon Hornby, W H Smith chairman, sees a bright future

most important growth imbued it with Victorian values of honesty and reliability that served it well, at least for the first half of this century.

However, by the 1960s Smith began to look study. It was where the aunts and uncles of the new generation of shoppers bought bland and inoffensive cards and presents for their nieces and nephews.

So the group embarked on a series of takeovers designed to widen its appeal. The strategy was that the Smith chain would retain its long-lasting qualities of dependability, even if it was a shade predictable, while tapping trumper pockets by acquiring Our Price, Paperchase, Waterstone's and Virgin Records.

"The record of the company is one of great potential unfulfilled," says Zak Keshavjee, of Williams de Broe, the stockbroker.

Sir Simon said: "People say that W H Smith is accident prone, but we're prepared to try new things and take risks, in a way that manufacturing companies are always trying new products and failing, often at a heavy

cost. The public never see that, but unfortunately in retailing it's difficult to disguise it."

Critics point to Waterstone's as a symbol of how the Smith management was losing its touch. Tim Waterstone had joined Smith in 1973, after earning his marketing spurs with Allied Breweries. He rose to be chairman of W H Smith (USA) by 1978, but fell out with his bosses three years later. He fulfilled every frustrated executive's dream by starting a chain of bookshops in competition with Smith — and in 1989 they paid him the ultimate compliment of buying a controlling 50.5 per cent of Waterstone's for £9 million.

A s Sir Simon puts it: "Tim Waterstone put an imaginative approach to a specialist bookshop and the merger will create a bookselling business of the highest quality. What we didn't see, which Tim did, was that if you have the very big shop you get the sales."

Inevitably, as Smith is a group that

does best what it knows best, some of its more ambitious forays have had to be undone. It has pulled out of retail travel shops within shops, and cable and satellite television.

Do It All, its DIY chain, has been merged with Boots's Payless to form a jointly owned third force. It is a defensive move that may not be enough to beat the recession.

"I think that bringing the two companies together was strategically the right thing to do," Sir Simon argues, "because it's given us the national coverage which neither company had before. The market is obviously very depressed, because the housing market is depressed, and people spend money on their houses when they move. Because of that there is intense price cutting, particularly between B&Q and Texas. My experience of price wars is that eventually people see how futile they are, and stop."

The threat of a price war is also hanging over Smith's traditional book business, to the campaign by Terry Maher, the chairman

of Pentos, to break the net book agreement. Pentos owns the Dillons bookshop chain. Smith is quickly gaining valuable experience of a free market in books, through its American operations, while stoutly opposing Mr Maher in Britain.

"Prices have had to go up in the States," reports Sir Simon, "so that the shops can then discount them. I'm quite clear that what the public really wants in bookselling is availability. Why I'm so opposed to the end of the NBA is I know it will put prices up."

He sees little change in the formula for the core business, of selling magazines, books, stationery and music, although he bemoans the current stagnation in popular music.

Paul McCartney and the founder members of the Rolling Stones are all within ten years of Sir Simon's age — 57. Elton John is 45. Even the top-selling Michael Jackson is a relatively whisky 32. "There isn't a new sound coming through," Sir Simon says, "but that will evolve. Suddenly there'll be a burst of new sounds. So it's going through a difficult stage, which is really driven by technical change and fashion, and there's been a temporary blip in the prime buying age of 16 to 24. But I'm very confident of the music market in the long term. I really am."

**M**eanwhile, he has had to cope with a revolution in another core business: newspaper wholesaling. Distribution has been the hidden lifeblood of Smith, dating back to the stagecoach era and not to be confused with retail newsagents — an activity Smith withdrew from long ago. Until the late 1970s distribution accounted for more than half the group's turnover. But it was strongly unionised and dependent on the railways.

When Rupert Murdoch took his newspapers, including *The Times*, to Wapping in 1986 he had to establish a distribution system that was union-free. So he signed contracts with road hauliers, principally the Australian-owned TNT and BRS Newsflow, part of NFC. Other newspaper publishers followed suit, giving them a much stronger position in negotiations with distributors like Smith.

Consequently, the publishers increased their profit margins at the expense of wholesalers who also had to invest to compete. In Smith's case, the bill was £24 million for sophisticated new information systems and a reshaped distribution network. In the long run, this should pay good dividends, for computerisation allows closer analysis of sales trends and retailer behaviour — valuable information that can be used and sold. "A hundred years of change has been telescoped into five years," says Bob Simpson, managing director of W H Smith News.

Sir Simon's next, and possibly last, major project is to decide whether Smith ought to expand into other parts of Europe. "We're looking at it very carefully," he confirms, "probably as a joint venture for each country." Shareholders will be hoping that this project works out more happily than some of Smith's other attempts to stay ahead of the game.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Drinkers' dividend

A CHANGE of strategy by Robert Fleming last autumn is about to pay unexpected dividends for City drinkers. Louise Mayo, the former top-earning member of Fleming's UK and European convertibles and UK warrants team, which was closed just more than a year ago, is making an unusual comeback. Mayo, who reportedly had earned close to £150,000 a year at Flemings, is now based in Hong Kong where she has been setting up a similar desk for Standard Chartered. She flies in to London later this week, however, for the opening of Flownet, a new drinking hole in Cannon Street, which she is launching with Tony Marshall, formerly of Prudential-Bache, and Graham Flownet, former manager of Balls Brothers wine bar in the Great Eastern Hotel. "It is not a pub and not a wine bar," says Mayo. "It's a rare combination of both." The new venue is close to the futures and options exchange at Cannon Bridge and near James Capel's new offices, an unexpected benefit for Mayo, who worked for Capel before joining Fleming and who is looking forward to a reunion with her former colleagues.



copies of the treaty at £3.50 each. Both ardent anti-federalists — Nelson stood for the Anti-Federal League in the election. Pollard believes W H Smith, which has declined to take copies, "could sell 20,000 easily". Meanwhile, he has scored something of a coup in getting PC Plus, the computer magazine, to give away free copies of his disc of the treaty in its next issue.

### Low key budget

THE Dames might have shaken financial markets with their Maastricht vote, but their budget has passed unnoticed. Remmington Dymose, the finance minister, made the annual budget statement on Monday under an embargo prohibiting mention of it in the press until the following day. Whereas such a move would be unthinkable in Britain, where the Danish budget got by without a single breach of the embargo and, moreover, bare-

### Backing Cadbury can spread high standards of corporate governance

From Mr Maurice Hunt

Sir Robert Bruce's faint praise of the CBI clearly does not extend to the corporate sector in his piece on the Cadbury Code (August 13). Unfortunately, his lack of goodwill (in the non-accounting sense) seems to be based on a number of misunderstandings.

The CBI believes that disclosure of an annual compliance statement such as a Stock Exchange listing obligation would be an expensive aid to compliance. Boards accustomed to the Yellow Book know that statements issued without meticulous care can seriously damage the health of a company and its shareholders. For that reason, chairmen would probably have their compliance statement checked by lawyers and they in turn would want to know exactly what directors were signing.

Tenants should see the draft lease first

From Mr Edward Beaumont

Sir May I add something to the letters (August 13 and 19) about the terms of commercial leases and the duration and extent of the liability of tenants and guarantors.

It is open to prospective

tenants to check the Code of Best Practice alone, or the Cadbury Committee's accompanying recommendations and explanatory memorandum as well? They do not say exactly the same thing, and before we knew it there would be calls for interpretative notes and authoritative rulings. Shareholders might think there were better ways for senior management and their advisers to spend their time.

Governments cannot legislate for good corporate governance, but shareholders, especially institutional ones, can insist upon it if they choose to; and there is growing evidence that they now do, when they believe that changes in board structure or operation are needed.

Pressure for compliance is more likely to come through this route than a formal statement in the annual report and

accounts. Cadbury rightly sees its Code of Best Practice as a checklist for board and investors, which has to be applied in a way sensitive to companies' individual circumstances, rather than as a close proxy for statute.

To put it another way, the success of a board is more likely to be a matter of personal chemistry than something designed through a mechanism such as a two-tier board.

Independent directors may be a check and balance to a powerful individual or group of executives, but they ought to be much more besides, bringing a wider perspective and range of experience to the development of business strategy.

While the two-tier board can work in other business cultures, that is no reason to suppose that it would enhance company profits or avoid corporate failures here. After all, the Japanese, who have sustained their economic success for as long as the Germans and are skilful in borrowing ideas elsewhere, have stuck to their version of the unitary board.

Cadbury's draft report has already been influential in causing boards to look again at their composition and method of working.

If it is sensibly applied and backed by institutional shareholders, it will spread the standards of corporate governance practised by the best companies.

Yours sincerely,

MAURICE HUNT, Deputy Director-General and Secretary,

Confederation of British Industry,

Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

Getting vexed over vexillology and flying the wrong flag of Japan

From Mr Peter Bartleet

Sir, In the first column of Business Times (August 19) you have depicted what I can only assume you believe to be the national flag of Japan.

In fact what you have shown is the naval ensign, sometimes referred to as the "war ensign".

This design was adopted on November 3, 1859.

The national flag of Japan is a simple red disc on a white ground which is usually called the Hino-Maru and was officially adopted on August 5, 1853, largely in response to the arrival of Commodore Matthew C Perry, of the United States Navy, in that

year. The red disc (Hino-Maru) is as the chrysanthemum, a mon or heraldic device widely recognised for centuries in Japan.

Yours truly,

PETER G. BARTLETT, 56, Burford Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire.

### Shotgun shopping

From Mr Bernard Keeffe

Sir, Mr Miller rightly points out that British banks' high interest rates can hardly be said to increase consumer confidence (Business letters August 19). There is even stronger discouragement elsewhere. A spokesman for one of our largest retailers of electronic goods in a broadcast this week appealed to the government to reduce interest rates, which, he claimed, were discouraging customers from entering his shop. This chain at present charges 32.9 per cent on credit purchases. With inflation below 4 per cent, this represents a real charge of between 23 and 29 per cent. This perhaps could be described as a shot-in-the-foot situation.

Yours faithfully,

BERNARD KEEFFE, 153 Honor Oak Road, SE23.

their name Vexillology can be an absorbing subject and needs careful attention.

Yours truly,

PETER G. BARTLETT, 56, Burford Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire.

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3	Lloyds	Banks/Bsc	
4	Eurotransit Uts	Transport	
5	Tomkinson	Textile	
6	Card Gp	Chemn/Past	
7	Fisons	Industrial	
8	Tapekook	Transport	
9	Iceland Frozen Foods		
10	Maastricht	Breweries	
11	Bass	Breweries	
12	Microfilm Rep	Electrical	
13	Allied Irish	Banks/Bsc	
14	Airspur	Industrial	
15	Bar & W'A'	Leisure	
16	CHU	Building/Rds	
17	Lex Service	Motors/Air	
18	Peregrine	Banks/Bsc	
19	Queens Moat	Hotels/Cat	
20	BSS Group	Industrial	
21	EMAP	Newspaper/Pub	
22	LWT CP	Leisure	
23	Kewill Sys	Electrical	
24	TNT	Transport	
25	Airports	Leisure	
26	Grainger	Property	
27	Bellway	Building/Rds	
28	Adwest	Industrial	
29	Smurfit Jeff	Paper/Pri	
30	Uni Newspapers	Newspaper/Pub	
31	Washington UJ	Paper/Pri	
32	Soto	Industrial	
33	Wimpey G	Building/Rds	
34	Takara	Industrial	
35	Ametec	Building/Rds	
36	Guinness	Breweries	
37	Lucas	Motors/Air	
38	Morland	Breweries	
39	Creamer	Industrial	
40	Booker	Food	
41	Kwik Save	Food	
42	ERF	Motors/Air	
43	Bryant	Building/Rds	
44	Comptex Gp	Leisure	

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Please include a copy of your daily totals for the weekend division of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SAT	SUN	Total		

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Miss G Livsey, of Lytham St Annes; Mr K Wrigley, of W4, each receive £66.66.

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382	300	280	Albert Irvin	155	155	10%	10	10
393	300	280	Amstrad	100	100	10%	10	10
404	300	280	Anglo American	110	110	10%	10	10
415	300	280	Anglo-Dutch	110	110	10%	10	10
426	300	280	Anglo-Standard	150	150	10%	10	10
437	300	280	Anglo Tech	150	150	10%	10	10
448	300	280	Anglo-Steel	150	150	10%	10	10
459	300	280	Anglo-Telecom	150	150	10%	10	10
470	300	280	Anglo-Trust	150	150	10%	10	10
481	300	280	Anglo-Weird	150	150	10%	10	10
492	300	280	Anglo-Yorkshire	150	150	10%	10	10
503	300	280	Anglo-Zytec	150	150	10%	10	10
514	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
525	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
536	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
547	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
558	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
569	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
580	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
591	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
602	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
613	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
624	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
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745	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
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834	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
845	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
856	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
867	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
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1056	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
1067	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
1078	300	280	Anglo-Zytek	150	150	10%	10	10
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The burden of the uniform business rate is too much for some owners, Chris Partridge reports

## Vandalism in high places

**P**roperty owners, already suffering from the effects of the slump in lettings, have resorted to "constructive vandalism", gutting their empty office buildings, to avoid having to pay the uniform business rate. Now, to escape local authority charges that can reach up to £1 million per year, owners of other empty offices are even threatening to wreck the facades of buildings in some prime central London sites.

At least six blocks in the City of London have been constructively vandalised by their rate-payers, so that technically they are unfit for occupation and consequently not liable for rates. So far, the damage has been limited to the interiors, by the removal of lights, kitchens, lavatories and any of the facilities that are legally necessary before office workers can use the premises. Externally, the buildings have been properly maintained and the City has agreed that no rates can be charged on the buildings.

Now several developers plan a similarly destructive course of action on their buildings in other London boroughs, notably Westminster. However, they are finding district valuers less willing to co-operate. Therefore, the owners are threatening to destroy the exteriors as well, to make the case for zero rates unanswerable.

"The next step is to take the windows out, which would seriously affect the appearance of streets," says a director of one of the property firms that has already gutted a City office building, saving more than £250,000, a year.

The rates bills faced by owners or tenants of empty premises can be very large. The business rate in the City averages £22 per sq ft, of which half is payable on an empty office or shop after it has been unoccupied for three months. "Property holders face six-figure or seven-figure sums annually," says Michael Partridge, the chief executive of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which is campaigning for the introduction of a rate for empty properties of 10 per cent.

If a building is subjected to constructive vandalism, no rates are payable at all. But the expense of bringing the building back into commission if a tenant is found could be considerably greater.

Landlords also know that even empty buildings get the benefit of police protection, street lighting and



other council services, and are prepared to contribute something.

The last time there was an "empty" rate for commercial and industrial premises was in the 1960s, but it was abolished in the wake of the controversy over Centre Point, the New Oxford Street skyscraper which remained empty for several years, as its owner, Harry Hyams, waited for a single tenant.

The recessions of the 1990s in the manufacturing and distribution sectors have resulted in reductions of rates for empty factories and warehouses, especially after some factory owners went to the extent of removing roofs from buildings to get zero rating.

"There are huge amounts of property that cannot be sold or let, and many owners have problems meeting

the liability," Mr Partridge says.

Buildings that have been subject to constructive vandalism in the City include Armour House, near St Paul's, owned by the St Martin's Property Corporation, which is sav-

forced to postpone plans until business conditions improve. However, there are stories in the City that a leading industrial company is about to "vandalise" one of its main office blocks in order to save £1.5 million a year in business rates. "There are any number of office buildings that were ripe for development but are now not viable, and there is no prospect of being able to let them for anything at all," says Michael Soanes, a partner in estate agents Knight Frank & Rutley. "We see the problem increasing over the next year unless something is done."

Yet there has been very little official response to constructive vandalism.

In a written parliamentary answer to a question, Robin Squire, the environment minister, said: "We have no plans to change the law governing the rating of empty property. Empty property benefits from local services and it is right that it should contribute to the costs incurred by local authorities."

Property whether occupied or empty is ratable if it is capable of beneficial occupation. If owners judge it commercially advantageous to render property unusable, that is a matter for them." Mr Squire estimated that the lost rates from the vandalised properties in the City came to about £3 million a year, compared to a total rate income from empty property in England of about £600 million a year, an amount that will not be easily given up from local authority coffers.

## Time is right for investors to move into European market

**I**nvestors who stayed away from the commercial property market last year because of the fall in values could be ready to make some strategic purchases to take advantage of the end of the recession.

Angus Mcintosh, the head of research at the consultancy Healey & Baker, says in the newly-published 1992 European Investment Report that the most sought after properties are no longer the land-

The recession has stifled property investment on the Continent, but as

Christopher Warman reports, purchases now could pay dividends

mark buildings popular in the 1980s. These have proved vulnerable to loss of value during downturns. Proving more popular are the growth locations in markets that are

perceived to have an increasingly important part to play in the European Community.

While Germany has been the main target for some time, its popularity in the short term

has suffered because of the difficulties in the country's economy.

Dr Mcintosh believes, however, that the downside of the recession has been over-emphasised for those who invest on a medium- to long-term basis. "The countries that have benefited have been Portugal and Spain and, to a lesser extent, the UK and France, where there is a perception that bargains are to be obtained despite relatively low levels of occupational demand."

The report also explains how countries will amend legislative practice to permit them to function fully within the EC. Italy, Portugal and Spain should, over the next few years, remove artificial barriers and thus increase their investment appeal.

There is already considerable demand for retail investments in these three markets which, by international standards, are relatively immature in terms of major retailers and sophisticated real estate investors.

Another investment report,

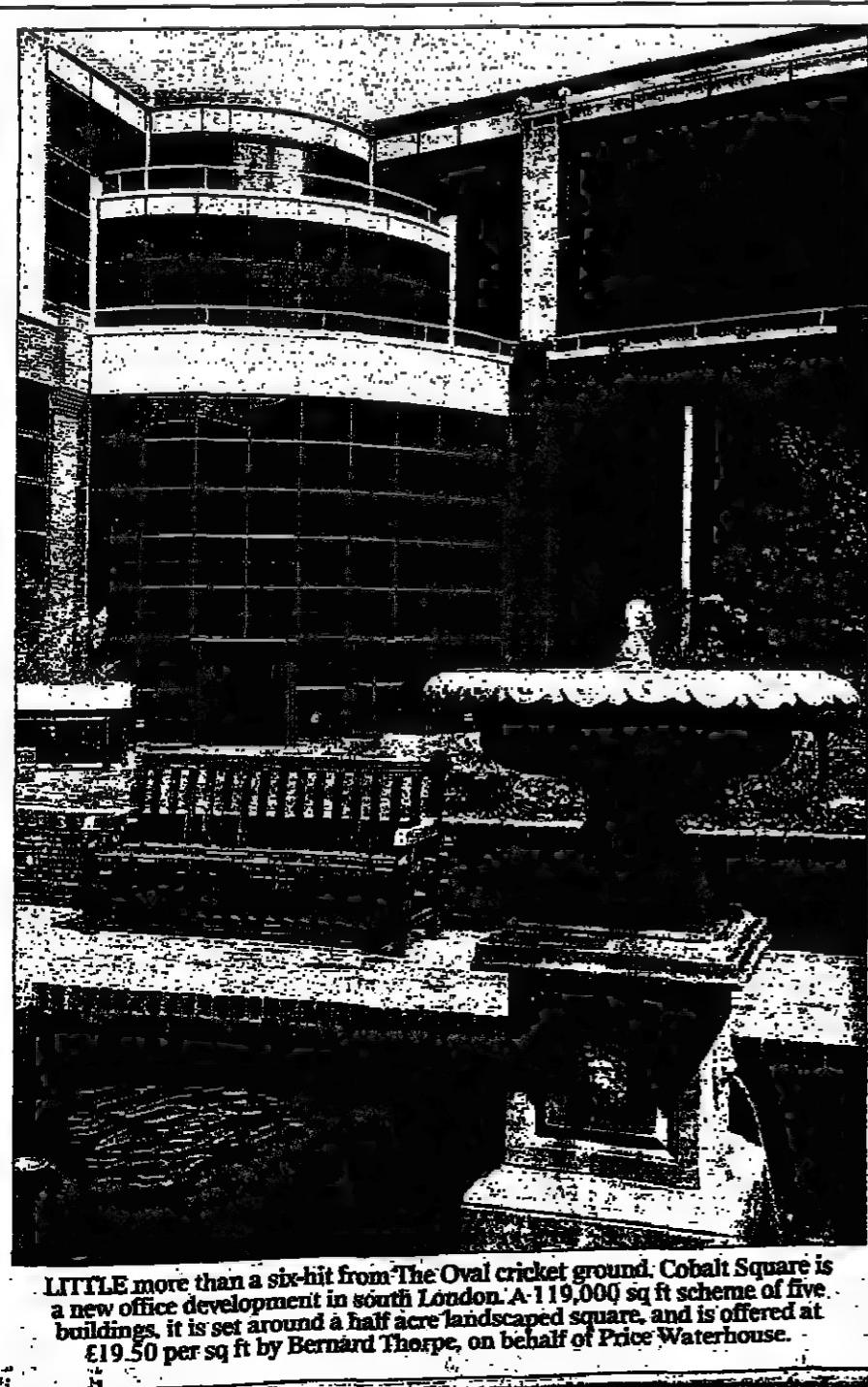
'Bargains can be obtained despite low demand'

from Jones Lang Wootton, concludes that with a few exceptions, notably Germany and Belgium, activity in Europe's main letting, development and investment markets has been slowing down, with little prospect of a significant upturn in the short term.

This provides an opportunity for occupiers and investors alike to exploit the reduced competition and more attractive pricing of the recession.

From the 25 property markets monitored in Jones Lang Wootton's Quarterly Investment Report - the European Property Markets, the clearest trend has been rising yields, reflecting both the reduced prospect of rental growth and upward pressure in interest rates.

As rents at the top of the market have generally flattened out or fallen, many investors have chosen to stay on the sidelines until they see the market to be recovering.



LITTLE more than a six-bit from The Oval cricket ground. Cobalt Square is a new office development in south London. A 119,000 sq ft scheme of five, £19.50 per sq ft by Bernard Thorpe, on behalf of Price Waterhouse.

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John Sopkey comes to the fire in Redbrick about the fire share-to-Super 8 Can You see how?

## RUGBY LEAGUE

# French connection in Regal Trophy aims to boost game

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE efforts of the Rugby Football League (RFU) to extend the borders of the game are to include the introduction of French teams into domestic competition, beginning with this season's Regal Trophy.

Carcassonne, France's leading side last season, and the club which wins an early-season competition will appear in the draw for the preliminary round in October. Both teams will play all their fixtures away from home.

The French game is a poor relation of rugby union and in urgent need of the stimulus that competition with British sides would provide. From the RFU's perspective, a stronger France would be beneficial not simply for the wider development of the game, but also in providing Great Britain with a harder edge to the two annual fixtures between the countries.

Should the French clubs become just a more exotic form of cannon fodder, the experiment could be interpreted

as a gimmick, rather than a genuine attempt to broaden and strengthen the game in the northern hemisphere. If the French connection can furnish a real competitive element, then the inclusion of teams from France in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup is a possibility.

However, the inability of the rugby league authorities to extend the horizons of the domestic league championship as far as Scarborough — the latest casualties after only a year in existence — continues to defeat the game's expansionist ambitions.

Hull and Bradford Northern are maintaining their interest in signing Deryck Fox, the Great Britain scrum half, although Chris Caisley, the Bradford chairman, insisted yesterday that the club was not prepared to sell Karl Fairbank, the international forward, to Leeds in order to finance the purchase of Fox from Featherstone Rovers.

## BASKETBALL

## Johnson to miss meeting

By NICHOLAS HARLING

Michael Johnson, the American sprinter, says the illness that affected him before the Olympic Games has left him unable to finish the European track season.

Johnson, who had tentatively agreed to run at an international meeting in Koblenz, Germany, on Monday, has had to pull out.

## Increased funds

Team Prize-money for the women's international circuit will increase by \$8 million to \$33m in 1993, when 67 tournaments will be staged. The Pan-Pacific Open in Tokyo in February and the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia in November are upgraded to tier one tournaments.

## High quality list

Horse trials: Thirteen nations have entered the 1992 Blenheim Audi international from September 3 to 6. Among them are New Zealand's silver medal-winning team from Barcelona, and three of the Great Britain team that finished sixth.

## EC sailors

Yachting: The first pan-European boat to enter the Whitbread Round the World Race will compete next year, skippered by a Swede and sponsored by a Dutch company. The boat will sail under the flag of the European Community.

## Jahangir back

Squash rackets: Jahangir Khan, who has been world champion six times, will make his return to the international circuit in the World Open in Johannesburg next month. He was forced out of the game in February by a spine injury.

## In the top 30

Rifle shooting: Eleven of the Fairfield Great Britain rifle team were in the top 30 of the first day's aggregate at the United States Palma individual matches in Raton, New Mexico.

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# The flaws that result in disjointed television coverage

By PETER BARNARD

THIS is the time of year when I have great difficulty giving football serious attention perhaps they are having the same trouble at Old Trafford. However ropey the weather, August is not a month in which we should be playing football at all, it being the cricket season. Something should be done, as they say, but nothing will.

The dying embers of international cricket are, at least, an opportunity to say something about the television coverage of the great game and I hope the BBC will give some thought to one or two minor changes of approach. Not to the coverage as a whole, which is excellent, but to the late-night highlights packages, which many of us

got something close to equal time. There was never a hope of Pakistan winning and, although England bowlers knocking over stamps is a sight rare enough to warrant some attention, surely this was a golden opportunity to give over most of the 50 minutes to England's batting display, a classic of the one-day game.

Sadly, the attempt to be balanced produced disjointed coverage. The suspicion is that the television producers think stamps being blasted out of the ground make for better viewing than good stroke play, but I would applaud the editors if they went for broke (and risked the wrath of opposition supporters, of whatever side) by giving us a thorough look at what, in this case, was a

world record-breaking innings.

That leads me to the second problem of the highlights programmes, which is that they are under-captivated. Too often one is left to guess at the identity of batsman and bowler, which is not as helpful as it could be. I can see that, given the sparse commentary favoured by Richie Benaud and Co (and me, there is a difficulty here), but I have the impression that captions (Wager to Hick) are used less now than used to be the case. Can we have more of them please?

A third point that could use some attention is the question of the summarisers. Geoffrey Boycott comes over well and Ray Illingworth avoids repeating what the main commentator has said

more often than not (though not often enough), but I did not think Asif Iqbal added much to the sum of human knowledge in the Test series and one-day internationals.

Asif is a charming man who knows the game inside out; in the commentary box he needs a little pre-match coaching.

I suppose there is no avoiding the subject of football. Match of the Day is back and benefiting from the presence of Alan Hansen and Gary Lineker, not to mention the fact that there seem to be plenty of goals about.

I do wonder how much longer the opening sequence, which has been using shots from throughout the programme's history, can continue. There was a good excuse on Saturday night, the programme celebrating the anniversary of its first transmission, but I would have thought the device had a pretty limited shelf life, given that even brief glimpses of



Asif: pre-match coaching



King of the castle: O'Sullivan has had little time for a rest at Blackpool

## New kid on the block has the old hands sweating

Phil Yates catches up with the teenager who has been setting a fierce pace in snooker's pre-season qualifying marathon

**F**or a precociously talented snooker's equivalent of Jennifer Capriati, but while the teenaged American tennis player enjoyed her moment in the sun by winning gold at the Olympics in Barcelona, O'Sullivan has been demonstrating his enormous mental stamina within the less salubrious confines of the Northwick Castle Hotel, Blackpool.

While most 16-year-olds have spent the summer looking for their first niche in the job market or nervously awaiting exam results, O'Sullivan has been single-handedly exploding the myth that snooker proficiency is a sign of a misspent youth.

Yesterday O'Sullivan enjoyed a rare break from the qualifying rounds of the forthcoming season's ranking events in which, playing a match almost every day for nine weeks, he has made the most dynamic start to a professional career since Alex Higgins won the world championship at his first attempt in 1972.

The bookmakers are quoting only 20-1 against O'Sullivan capturing the game's premier title by 1997.

"I want to be world champion and I think I will be," O'Sullivan said. "From any other player four months short of his seventeenth birthday, that would sound like pie-in-the-sky arrogance. However, he said it with such dead-set conviction that it is difficult to ignore."

On his day away from competitive pressures, O'Sullivan, a naturally talented golfer, toyed with the idea of heading for the links. Instead, he decided to practise for his match today in the last 128 of the Classic International Open.

"It's a long time to be stuck away from home but you've got to buckle through. I've won five or six matches here on bad days by simply having the will and determination to do it."

That was only one victory in an unbroken run of 38 match wins which superseded Ste-

## YACHTING

## Deerstalker still in the battle to sink Little's chances

By BARRY PICKTHALL

CHRIS Little and his Bounder crew are the provisional winners of the Hartlepool Renaissance Round Britain race. They battled their way back to Cowes shortly after midnight yesterday to secure the handicap lead over their close rivals, Bon Vouloir III and The Youth Challenge, skippered by Matthew Humphries.

However, Little and his crew now have an anxious wait until 10am tomorrow to see whether Michael Taylor-Jones and his S&S 34 Deerstalker can better their time. The Deerstalker crew stole a surprising three-hour lead over Bounder after completing the third stage of this 1,860-mile circumnavigation from Lerwick to Hartlepool. At noon yesterday, she was rounding the Norfolk coast, still 240 miles from the finish with her crew rationing their hands at the prospect of strong winds again today.

"We're in the hands of the gods," Little admitted yesterday. "If the weather keeps blowing as it has, they may beat us."

At one point during this final stage, the winds were touching 50 knots, forcing the Bounder crew to take down their mainsail for a time. But the conditions put paid to

## ROWING

## Mixed inheritance awaits new coach

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE Amateur Rowing Association hopes to announce the appointment of a chief coach by mid-September. Britain went into the Olympic Games without anyone in the position and applications for the post closed this week.

Brian Armstrong, the international rowing manager, who has just returned from the lightweight and junior world championships in Montreal, spent some of his time in Canada talking to potential candidates including leading figures from New Zealand, Canada and America. All the European rowing federations were informed of the position, and certain individuals were targeted.

The new coach will inherit a pool of coarsmen of proven ability, although some of

## FOOTBALL

Tottenham v Arsenal (0); West Ham v Bristol City (2). Second division: Birmingham v Shrewsbury Town (7); Cardiff v Coventry; Derby v Torquay; Yeovil v Bournemouth (7-49).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool v Sheffield United (7); Manchester United v Aston Villa (5-30); Newcastle United v Derby County; Sunderland v Leeds (7-0); Second division: Nottingham Forest v Middlesbrough; Grimsby v Port Vale (7-0); Middlesbrough v Wigan (7-0); Barnsley v Scunthorpe (7-0).

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: League Cup: Cork City v Cork Ramblers (6-30); Shelbourne v Bohemians.

ULSTER CUP: Quarter-final: Ards v Omagh.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Darwen v Luton; Ecclesfield v Stockport; Fylde v Southport; Spennymoor; Winsford v Hartlepools FA.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Brightlingsea v Webster; and Perseverance; Chelmsford v Webber; Histon v Havering; Stowmarket v Cromer.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Froome v Chelmsford; Biddulph; Farington v Salterhebble.

OTHER SPORT

SNOKER: Classico International Open qualifying round (36-100).

SPEEDWAY: Heatland v Warrington. Second division: Long Eaton v Edinburgh. Challenge match: Poole v Danish Select.

Prog  
defy

REDC

Up to 150

ALKER  
battle to  
e's champion

# Progressive Retender to defy his Redcar burden

FOR a man who claims there is no great secret to winning handicaps, Luca Cumani has had at least his fair share of success. He can add to that with Retender in the Yorkshire Television Handicap at Redcar this afternoon. He is my man.

Retender, untraced as a two-year-old, put up a good performance when less than eight lengths behind King Olaf and Hannas on his debut at Newmarket in April.

However, he did not progress in the same way as those two, and it has been a case of patience for Cumani, which was finally rewarded when Retender came good in a claimer at Yarmouth two weeks ago.

Retender took the lead three furlongs from home to beat previous winner Edge Of Darkness by three-and-a-half lengths.

His main rival today could be First Bid but he has gone

up 8lb since winning at Beverley earlier this month and may have reached his limit.

Retender is burdened with joint top weight but still looks too good for these.

Cumani can make it a double with Olivadi in the Norton Food Supplies Ltd Maiden Auction Stakes.

Olivadi made a promising

debut at York last month, only

widening when sixth, beaten

seven lengths by Urty Urry.

Mary Revelley can also land

a double with Amazing Feat

and Grouse-N-Heather. Amazing Feat needed a steward's

enquiry to record the first

victory of his career but looks

capable of taking the Teekay

Bitter Handicap.

Having shown some potential

in his juvenile season,

notably when a good fifth at

On recent form Olivadi

had luck in September, he was sent off favourite for his seasonal debut at Catterick this month.

However, it finished three-quarters of a length second, having been badly bumped in the final furlong by Black Boy. The latter was first past the post but was subsequently disqualified for causing interference.

Now Mrs Revelley, who has proved adept at placing horses, has decided to try this son of Peterius in handicap company. As usual this leaves the handicapper with little form to work on and he may have erred on the side of leniency again when look to be some well-exposed rivals.

Grouse-N-Heather seeks her fifth victory in the Runswick Bay Claiming Stakes and, judged on her latest performance at Pontefract three weeks ago, she is still on the upgrade.

Having shown some potential in his juvenile season,

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On recent form Olivadi

Nomis does not look an an unusual choice for the Newhaven Selling Handicap at Brighton but he may still be the pick of this field.

Allimac is racing off a mark only 4lb higher than when he over today's course and distance in May. That, coupled with a return to selling company, could be enough to see him regain form.

Snow Blizzard looked to have more than a little in hand when winning at Folkestone last time out and can follow up in the Rottingdean Handicap. Having made most of the running, he quickened clear with a furlong to travel to beat Thimbeline by five lengths.

Susanna's Secret, who had little answer to the challenge of the well-backed Indian Slave at Catterick last month, looks on the right mark to gain his first success of the season in the George Robey Challenge Trophy.

## Powerful Million challenge

A VINTAGE European contingent will fly to Chicago on Monday for the Arlington Million in an attempt to add to the successes of Tolomeo in 1985 and Mill Nine in 1988 (Richard Evans writes).

Second Set, who would be suited by the forecast fast ground, will be joined for the race on Sunday west by Exa To Nowhere, Dear Doctor, Star Of Cozene and Young Buster.

Other runners include River Verdon, Hong Kong's best horse, Golden Pheasant, winner of the 1991 Japan Cup, Tight Spot, who won the Million last year.

Paul Kellaway is hoping that John Rose, yesterday's easy Brighton winner, can join the Arlington challenge.

"Unfortunately, we are only second reserve at the moment," said Kellaway, who added Madam Gay to finish third to John Henry in the inaugural running in 1981.

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## Cole critical of Eddery's Gimcrack riding tactics

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Cole spoke out yesterday about the riding tactics of Pat Eddery, who cost the champion jockey a five-day ban at York last week.

On the eve of Eddery's appeal before the Jockey Club, the champion trainer said: "Racing would be in chaos and someone would be hurt if people are allowed to push through horses like Pat did in the Gimcrack Stakes."

Eddery, who rode Silver Wizard, was suspended for careless riding when he attempted to force his way between Green's Bid and the eventual winner, Splendid, both trained by Cole. Silver Wizard finished second but was subsequently demoted to third.

"Pat is the champion jockey and my runners were drawn one and two at York. If he can't find another way of passing them, he should hang up his boots, or let his brother Paul ride."



Cole confident

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Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, considers the successes and failures of the first England manager

## Stewart stepping down with his position assured

HE TOOK an idea and gave it an identity. That, perhaps, is the most fitting epitaph for Micky Stewart's six-year tenure as England cricket manager. The job was on trial as much as the man back in 1987, but as Stewart passes the baton to Keith Fletcher there is a meaningful silence from the malcontents who once wondered aloud what a manager could possibly do that a captain could not.

If the time has yet to come when the public cannot recall an England team without a manager, I suspect this is now the case in the dressing-room, that territory where Stewart has dispensed support, advice and protection with a single-minded zeal which is at once his strength and weakness.

His tendency to put the team above everything, his personal health included, has created a national side of greater unity, purpose and

commitment. That is his success. His failure has been an occasional inability to separate loyalty from objectivity where his players are concerned, the enduring example of which is his complex about the dismissal of Mike Gatting from the captaincy in the blood-letting summer of 1988.

Stewart has sometimes had right on his side when berating the media but in blaming them for Gatting's demise he is misguided. Gatting, as even some of his closest friends aver, should have lost the captaincy long before the red herring of the barnard, for behaviour on the field, both his own and that of some clear-thinking team managers should have countenanced.

His judgment has thus periodically failed him in matters such as the attempt to restore Gatting to the captaincy in 1989 (the veto of which must have brought him close to resignation) and the wild-eyed farcics with a New Zealand cameraman after the horrific injury to David Lawrence last winter.

In both instances, however,

civil discipline was recognised, even improved, in so far as the rigours of training and playing are concerned, but Stewart was guilty, at least until Graham Gooch arrived as captain, of presiding over declining standards of conduct on the field.

He was, it seems, sometimes too close to the players, too keen to create an impression that whatever England might have done was nobody's business but the team's, and that those who criticised were, as one, malicious interlopers.

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In both instances, however,

despising old pros who live and think in the past, and media men who seek to destroy rather than promote his game.

There are certain drawbacks to being a pioneer in any job, but the upside is that its detailed definition evolves at

your bidding. It might have been different if either Ray Illingworth or David Brown, who were also interviewed back in 1986, had taken the post, indispensable.

Illingworth, certainly, would have been more autocratic and it is worth saying here that Stewart, high-profile though he was, never once usurped the ultimate authority of the captain, a principle he held dear.

Being an indefatigable man, however, Stewart managed to make it such an all-consuming occupation that, he now jokes, his wife, Sheila, believes he works 13 months a

year. Bob Simpson, who has been doing similar duties for the Australian team over a slightly longer period, was once fond of saying that he aimed to do himself out of a job by making his team run so smoothly there would no longer be a need for

a manager. The concept found no favour with Stewart, for one of his targets was to make himself, or at least his post, dispensable.

After helping to choose the winter tour teams, late next week, Stewart will take his visions into the development of youth cricket, leaving the senior side in different hands.

Do not expect Fletcher to be so visible, so vocal or so summarily active in the game's politics. Fletcher did not seek the job, fearing he might miss his lovely old rectory home, his garden and his fishing, not to mention his beloved Essex.

There is not the obvious missionary fervour in him which exudes from Stewart. But there is the same abiding love of the game, the same familiarity with success. Fletcher will do things his way, and there may be changes, but he will find the bulk of his inheritance valuable.

Late challenge could prove fruitless

## Essex well placed to retain the title despite uneven run

BY ALAN LEE

THE last county championship in its confused form should be decided in the next week. Essex, though neither as consistent nor formidable as of old, need a maximum of 48 points from their last four games to retain a title which none of the pretenders has looked capable of winning.

The hot favourites have blundered at many a hurdle, yet the pursuing pack has always kept a respectful distance behind. Now, even a team coming with a late rush will almost certainly find the finishing line arrives too soon and Essex may well be champions again with two games to spare.

Essex have a 24-point lead over Kent, having played one game fewer. Leicestershire in third place are a further six points adrift and have only two games left, while the rest of the challengers have no realistic hope even if Essex fail to win another game and gather only bonus points.

The fact that the four remaining rounds of fixtures are all of four days duration is to Essex's advantage, not only because the continuing unsettled weather has less chance of sabotaging them, but, because, being the best balanced side, they are more likely to win over the longer period.

Last year, they wrapped up the title with two innings victories and another by nine wickets in their three concluding

	P	W	L	D	BB	SR%
Essex (1)	18	8	5	5	54	222
Kent (2)	18	7	6	5	51	218
Leicestershire (3)	20	7	8	5	73	203
Nottinghamshire (4)	19	6	9	4	50	200
Middlesex (5)	19	5	11	3	57	182
Notts (6)	19	6	9	4	43	185
Warwickshire (7)	19	6	9	4	43	185
Sussex (8)	19	5	10	4	45	175
Glosters (9)	19	5	10	4	40	170
Derbyshire (10)	19	5	10	4	36	164
Hampshire (11)	19	4	10	5	53	164
Sussex (12)	19	4	10	5	51	164
Yorkshire (13)	19	3	11	6	49	154
Lancashire (14)	19	3	11	6	49	154
Somerset (15)	18	3	12	6	49	151
Worcesters (16)	18	3	12	6	48	151
Glamorgan (17)	18	3	11	6	47	151
Durham (18)	18	2	8	6	47	151

\* Includes abandoned match (1991 positions in brackets)

Remaining fixtures

ESSEX: Toss vs. Sussex (H), Aug 31; vs. Warwickshire (A), Sep 7; Derbyshire (A). KENT: Today: Gloucestershire (H); Sep 7: Glamorgan (H); Sep 12: Warwickshire (A). LEICESTERSHIRE: Aug 31: Gloucestershire (A); Sep 7: Warwickshire (A); Sep 12: Northamptonshire (A). NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: Today: Middlesex (H); Aug 31: Yorkshire (A); Sep 12: Gloucestershire (A).

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ing four-day games and, as the highest-placed team they still have to play is Gloucestershire, presently ninth, something similar is likely.

If the machine has not functioned so smoothly this year, the reasons are obvious. Neil Foster last summer doctored 91 wickets to the championship cause. His aching, aching knee has cut 75 per cent from that figure and Essex have been unable to install a suitable substitute.

Mark Lott has not taken the wicket he has sometimes deserved, while Toplsey, Andrew

and Fraser are no more than stand-ins. Pringle has not always been at his best and, is, anyway, not a spearhead bowler, so the focus has shifted even more to the spin bowlers, John Childs and Peter Such.

These two epitomise one of the great Essex strengths, the ability to revitalise an individual's career. Between them they have taken 92 wickets so far, with their benefit games, played over the extended time on end-of-season pitches, about to start with today's fixture at Hove.

If Middlesex had been able to combine Emburey and Tufnell all season, theirs might have been a sterner challenge. As it is, their steady recent climb into fifth spot can come to no more than place money, a matter which will also be on the minds of fourth-placed Northamptonshire, their hosts today.

That Kent remain the one side with an outside chance of the title if Essex fall flat on their faces, would have seemed an outrageous prophecy when the season began.

But under Mark Benson and the coach, Daryl Foster, they have played positively to win seven games and lose only two, three fewer than Essex. They know they must also win their last three games though, beginning against Gloucestershire at Canterbury today.

For the rest of the county workforce, any tension this week will come only from the annual contract meetings.

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Fletcher: successful  
Stewart: indefatigable

Stewart was acting in what he thought were the best interests of the team and, however he may be criticised, I cannot believe he has ever acted differently.

He has admitted telling half-truths for his team and, in its defence, he is open in



Turned to advantage: Darren Robinson, of Essex, plays one off his hip for England Under-19 yesterday

## Rain hinders young Sri Lankans

By JOHN WOODCOCK

TAUNTON (first day of four): Sri Lanka won toss; England Under-19 have scored 136 for four against Sri Lanka Under-19.

IT WAS early afternoon yesterday before the County Ground at Taunton had recovered from the effects of heavy overnight rain, which meant a return of only 64 overs in the second of the three four-day Under-19 games between England and Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankans have been having no luck with the weather, but they bowled tidily and were as keen as mustard in the field, if rather too noisy. It is their second tour to England at this level, the other having been in 1986 when, in the corresponding match to this, they played at Bristol. A.G. Gurusinghe scored 161. Last week he made 137 against Australia in Colombo, sadly not in a winning cause.

Matara, Sri Lanka: Mike

Whitney and Tony Dodemaide gave the Australians the upper hand by exploiting a pitch which encouraged seamers to dismiss the Southern Province Combined XI for 164 yesterday. Dodemaide finished with three for 19 over 15 overs and Whitney had the even more

impressive figures of four for 34 off 20 overs.

The Australians, who took a first-innings lead of 148, were 40 for two after the second day of the three-day match.

SCORER: Australia 312 for 8 dec (M E Waugh 118, I A Healy 70 not out, D Marmion 59, K Wiggon 49, S de Vos 45 and 40, 2nd Southern Province Combined XI 164 for 4, N Williams 4 for 64).

Source: SCORER: Australia 312 for 8 dec (M E Waugh 118, I A Healy 70 not out, D Marmion 59, K Wiggon 49, S de Vos 45 and 40, 2nd Southern Province Combined XI 164 for 4, N Williams 4 for 64).

Total (4 wkt): 136.

T. Walker, G. Chapman, R. Rollins, M. Broadhurst and R. Bellinger to bat.

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings

0. Robinson bowled 2 batsmen.

1. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 24.

2. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 77.

3. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

4. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

5. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

6. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

7. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

8. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

9. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

10. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

11. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

12. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

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24. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

25. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

26. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

27. Weston & C. Silve b Alexander 15.

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**RUGBY UNION**

# Coaches hot under the collar at law changes

By GERALD DAVIES

**I**F SOUTH Africa showed in their International against New Zealand that at least one of the new law changes is an unqualified success — where the ball can be thrown in quickly before a full lineout has had time to form — the new law governing the ruck and maul, however, is more contentious. Paul Dwyer, as he prepared his Australian team to face South Africa last weekend, voiced his dissatisfaction.

Elsewhere, too, coaches are already getting hot under the collar about what is an experimental variation on the law. Each of the three superior rugby countries, England, New Zealand and Australia, have been vociferous in its condemnation since the International Rugby Football Board announced its intention last spring. Briefly, the law says that when the ball becomes unplayable at either a ruck or maul and a scrum is ordered then the ball shall be put in by the team *not* in possession of the ball at the commencement of either of these loose play situations.

The argument against the change states that it violates an important principle of rugby football. That is to say, the team going forward will be rewarded. From now on, it ain't necessarily so. From now on in these particular areas of the game the guiding principle will be that the ball must be kept "alive" and not be allowed to "die" at the bottom of a suffocating pile of inert bodies.

Therefore, there is an obligation to promote more continuous movement. To have fewer of those long-winded and unsightly passages of pushing and shoving which only encourages the layman to interpret rugby union simply as an infinitely more complicated, though no more sophisticated, version of the Eton wall game.

The beauty of rugby's laws,



Dwyer: not satisfied

despite, or perhaps because of, their obscurity or ambiguity, is the scope they often allow for a variety of tactics. While any number of factors from pure talent to a spot of rain, for instance, may determine a team's intention on any one day, the over-riding influential factor — excepting skill — on the style of rugby is the vision the players and their coaches bring to the game. They can limit their choice of tactics or expand on them. It is the shrewd judgment in their deployment which is important. Styles emerge; some are more appealing than others. By and large, what we understand as the running game is preferred.

Over one glorious weekend of the World Cup semi-finals last autumn, the contrasts which rugby encourage were on view at Murrayfield and Lansdowne Road, England, unsure of their overall strength or unwilling to test it against the Scots, were certain that simple possession among their powerful forwards would, more or less, ensure a final place. They were right and played a dour and successful match. It enchanted the English partisans but failed to charm anyone else. The match would have appealed to the mind of an objective observer, too, but not his heart.

The following day Australia and New Zealand played a match of greater width and depth of movement. This, dare I say, tickled the minds and hearts of us all.

If any game may have persuaded the international board that a change in ruck and maul might be worth an experiment then the balance of their views could well have been tipped in that direction by what they saw in that first match at Murrayfield. England stumped Scotland out of existence, yet only three points separated them at the end. Henceforward, the law makers may have concluded that the team who has the ball has the duty to keep it mobile.

In response, coaches seem to be protesting too much. A few red herrings are already circulating and, like many a good dummy, there are those quite happy to buy them. The new law, it is argued, will only encourage negative skills from the defending team so as to stop the ball from being freed. But the answer is surely that it is up to the team with the ball to improve its own protective skills or release the ball earlier. Like American football and rugby league the laws now impose certain limits on the team in possession.

Spence, a modest young man of 29 who should fit

nicely into a team of like-minded characters, is a role model for aspiring young professional golfers. Unlike his two companions, both former English champions, he never rose above county level as an amateur.

As a professional his achievements were modest in his first four years but he persevered and managed to keep his head above water with the help of Nevill club members. That all changed in 1990, the year, coincidentally or not, of his marriage.

Sally Ann may well have been an influence, but in golfing terms he feels it owes much to Paul Huggett, the Nevill professional, who cured his reverse pivot by getting him to transfer weight from left foot to right in the back swing.

Beyond that, he worked hard on physical development, which pushed up his weight, at 5ft 8in, "from ten stone and a bit to 11 stone 10, mostly muscle — though my wife might not agree".

That enabled Spence to play four rounds without any distress and gave him more length. "Before" he says, "I couldn't reach the fairways in

two, even with a three wood.

Now they are all in range." The turning point for him came in the 1990 Open. Playing right through from the regional qualifying, he stunned the golf world with a 65 in the second round of the competition proper, during which he was leading the field for a time.

He finished 22nd for a prize of nearly £8,000, but perhaps more valuable was the experience of playing alongside Nick Price in the third round

and Mike Reid in the fourth in front of big galleries. That all happened at St Andrews, so he is unlikely to be overtaken when he returns there in October for the Dunhill Cup.

His next target, he says, is the Ryder Cup team next year.

With that in mind he is passing up this week's Murphy's English Open and will

spring into action again with the Canon European Masters at Crans-sur-Sierre next week, the first tournament counting for Ryder Cup points.

## Spence has earned his reward

By JOHN HENNESSY

**SUCCESS** in golf, as in other games, means different things to different people. For Vijay Singh, of Fiji, last week's German Open brought his second victory of the season. For José Cartíres of Spain, a second place in his first season on the European Tour, provided, not only £82,275 in prize-money but also the guarantee of his player's card next season.

More modestly placed though he was, twelfth, James Spence secured a position which has left him, as he explained yesterday, "ecstatic". It meant that he would take a place in the English team alongside Steven Richardson and David Gilford for the Dunhill Cup in October.

"Some people think I got the place because Nick Faldo wasn't available," he points out, "but that's not the case. Steve took his place, not me. I deserve to be in because of my consistency. I'm in the top 12 of the stroke-average table with 70.43, second among English players only to Faldo."

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nicely into a team of like-minded characters, is a role model for aspiring young professional golfers. Unlike his two companions, both former English champions, he never rose above county level as an amateur.

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**FOOTBALL**

**HOCKEY**

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 1992

**Wright has chance to impress Taylor**

## Prolific Oldham attack provides test for Arsenal

By LOUISE TAYLOR

JUST what will Arsenal's defence make of Oldham Athletic at Highbury tonight? Not only do Oldham arrive fresh from last Saturday's 5-3 win against Nottingham Forest, but Arsenal conceded four goals to Norwich City in their only other home Premier League fixture.

With Oldham's rearguard also inclined to be erratic, it could be a fruitful evening for forwards. Ian Wright, of Arsenal, the leading scorer in the first division last season, will be aware that Graham Taylor, the England manager, is due to name his squad for the international in Spain next week.

So will Paul Merson who, despite a fine by his club for not being fit enough, is regarded by some as a potential solution to Taylor's national traumas. Merson is restored to the London side in place of Anders Limpar, who is on duty with Sweden. John Jensen is also absent, with Denmark.

Ian Olney, a summer signing from Aston Villa, makes his first appearance for Oldham after completing a suspension carried over from last season, and he could well be marked by Colin Pates. Pates has spent most of his two years at Arsenal in the reserves, but did well when deputising for the injured Steve Bould in

won at City for 12 years but one man keen to change that is Gary Megson, who swapped Maine Road for Carrow Road in a free transfer this summer.

Coventry were hardly the team the creators of the Premier League had in mind as early season pacesetters, but Bobby Gould's side are aiming for their fourth successive win, at home to Queen's Park Rangers. Gould, who was dismissed by West Bromwich Albion last season, predicted that the championship could be contested by one of the less fashionable clubs.

"I do not see any reason why ourselves, QPR or Norwich, should not come out of the pack and stay the distance. I just hope it will be us. I don't see why we cannot stay at the top."

Coming from Coventry, as I do, I have got to feel proud at having taken the club to the top of the league for only the second time in their history. Even my mother has rung up to say well done."

Gould — the manager who took Phelan to Wimbledon for a nominal fee from Swansea City — said that the new back-pass law could only assist the less-fancied clubs. "The whole thing has been thrown wide open by the rule because it enables teams of an inferior quality to put pressure on the opposition and stop them from breaking from the back."

Blackburn Rovers, who visit Coventry on Saturday, aim to continue their bright start to Premier League life at Chelsea. Two Rovers especially keen to impress will be Alan Shearer and Stuart Ripley. Shearer wants to score the goals which will confirm himself, ahead of Arsenal's Wright, as the successor to Gary Lineker for England.

Ripley, meanwhile, would like a slice of the England action. The pacey and powerful winger has made an enormous impact at Ewood Park since his £1.3 million close-season transfer from Middlesbrough and must be in contention for a chance in the England role variously occupied by Chris Waddle and John Barnes. Dennis Wise returns to an injury-troubled Chelsea side

from the back.

For Celtic the tie is the latest in a particularly demanding series of fixtures which have seen the Parkhead team play Aberdeen, Hearts and Rangers at Tannadice and Heart of Midlothian and Celtic at Tynecastle after the prospect of very close contests.

The Edinburgh game, for example, is a repeat of the opening fixture of the league season on August 1 when Celtic took both points because

## Unbeaten Celtic set for Hearts battle

THERE is every likelihood that at least one of the three Skol Cup quarter-final ties to be played tonight will require extra time or even a penalty shoot-out before a winner emerges (Roddy Forsyth writes). The meetings of Dundee United and Rangers at Tannadice and Heart of Midlothian and Celtic at Tynecastle offer the prospect of very close contests.

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**Who says you can't be a £50,000 a year manager?**

By LOUISE TAYLOR

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GORDON Durie yesterday became the first professional footballer to be charged with misconduct for allegedly feigning injury by the Football Association (FA). The Tottenham Hotspur and Scotland forward is accused of attempting to get Coventry's Andy Pearce sent off by pretending that Pearce had bunted him when the teams met for a Premier League match at White Hart Lane last week.

The match referee, Dermot Gallagher, reported the incident to the FA and it has

decided that there is a case to answer. Durie has 14 days to reply to the charge and is expected to request a hearing, possibly bringing a video, which he claims will clear him.

If found guilty, the player, who cost Tottenham £2.2 million when he left Chelsea at the end of last season, faces a hefty fine, lengthy suspension and a ban on his character.

David Bloomfield, the FA press officer, said yesterday:

"The charge is being brought on the basis of the referee's official report of the incident.

The allegation that the player feigned injury is the first case

of that nature we have dealt with."

Tottenham were furious when two days later, the referee was quoted in national newspapers, saying that Durie had fabricated the butt to have Pearce dismissed.

The club made an official complaint to the FA Premier League, criticising the referee and Doug Livermore, the Tottenham team manager, said: "We have looked at the video and it is clear that Pearce made contact with Durie."

Derry police yesterday confirmed that David Speedie, the Southampton forward, is

to be charged with assaulting a supporter after a match at Derby County last May.

The former Scottish international, 32, had been playing for Blackburn Rovers in a promotion play-off when, after the final whistle, he was alleged to have kicked a Derby supporter up the backside.

Mark Nile, the Middlesbrough physiotherapist, has also been charged with misconduct by the FA for allegedly "man-handling" a linesman at Highfield Road during Middlesbrough's opening Premier League fixture against Coventry.

**Evans keeps strong nerve**

By CHRIS SMART

CHRIS Evans, little known outside the southern region where he regularly competes in pro-am tournaments, enjoyed his biggest pay day when he won the Casey Celborn Welsh professional golf championship in fine style at Ashburnham yesterday.

Leading by two strokes overnight after a splendid one-under-par 71, Evans, 25, the head amateur at Prince's Club, Sandown, repeated that score yesterday for a 36-hole total of 142 and a three-stroke victory over the former Walker Cup player, Neil Roderick. The one-time Welsh cup player, David Vaughan, was a further stroke back in third spot.

Evans, who admitted not having slept a wink during the night, kept his nerve brilliantly even when news filtered through that Roderick, twice winner of the Welsh stroke play title, had birdied the opening two holes.

But Evans, to his credit, kept going steadily and at one time extended his overnight advantage to six strokes and it then looked as though he might coast to one of the biggest successes in the history of this championship.

However, there was a slight indication that he might be about to lose his nerve when he stumbled to a couple of bogeys in a row early on the inward half. But he got his act together again and a birdie three at the difficult 15th hole seemed to put the issue beyond doubt. A steady finish saw him home with plenty of breathing space.

"I just cannot believe it, all the years of struggle have been worthwhile," Evans, from Wrexham who has been at Prince's since 1983, said.

Partly, he attributed his success to the fact that Ashburnham is very similar to Prince's in difficulty of links and the conditions prevailing over the past couple of days are similar to those he regularly encounters in Kent.

Any hopes Paul Maye had of securing his third successive title were dashed when he took 41 to the turn. Kim Dabson jumped some 25 places with a closing 73, while Phil Parkin, the former British amateur champion, also had a 73 and finished in joint-fourth position.

Scores, page 25

## Poor start for BSkyB initiative

**JUST** over half a million people watched the first live Premier League match between Nottingham Forest and Liverpool — but Sky Television are still claiming that their football launch has been a success.

Figures issued by the Broadcast Audience Research Board (BARB) yesterday show that an average of 520,000 watched the game on Sunday, August 16 — an increase of 130,000 on the figure for the Charity Shield match between Leeds United and Liverpool.

BBC TV's Match of the Day highlights attracted 5.6 million for the Charity Shield. Figures for their first Premier League programme will be revealed today.

BSkyB has invested £304 million in the rights to cover the Premier League over the next five years. A spokesman said: "It is still very early days and viewing figures will increase as the season progresses and more people buy dishes."

## Yugoslavia fixture abandoned

Paris Yugoslavia's World Cup football qualifying match against Iceland in Reykjavik next Wednesday has been postponed.

It is expected that Yugoslavia will be expelled from the World Cup competition on August 31 under United Nations resolution 757, which declared an embargo on contact with Yugoslavia following the civil war there.

If that happens, group five, in which Yugoslavia are placed, would be reduced to five nations, Russia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland and Luxembourg, with two teams qualifying for the finals in the United States in 1994.

Yugoslavia were excluded from the European championship in June. (APF)

## FA charges Durie on case of feigning injury

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Durie in the dock

## Scottish Super League sails into troubled waters

By RODDY FORSYTH

PROSPECTIVE members of the Scottish Super League must be casting envious glances at their Premier League neighbours south of the border. On the day that the breakaway League admitted two more clubs and rejected two others, it ran into an obstacle that could delay it reaching its first season, a hurdle the English Premier League never had to negotiate.

After weeks in which the Scottish League and the growing number of rebels had traded headlines like tennis balls, the Scottish Football Association yesterday joined the fray. It said, simply, that it would not enter into any dialogue with clubs support-

ing the planned breakaway because it considers it not to be a properly constituted football league. It thus, immediately, posed the breakaway group — who hope to be in business next season — with a serious problem.

None of the leading clubs wants to establish the new league without SFA support, which is essential for participation in European football. Since missing their forays to the continent would be, for all the leading clubs, unthinkable, they must ensure that when the Super League does eventually get under way, it will be with SFA support.

In England, in contrast, the Premier League began with a blueprint drawn up by the Football Association. Its introduction was relatively

painless. Things will, clearly, not be quite as smooth in Scotland.

On Monday, the SFA executive committee met to discuss a request from Wallace Mercer, the chairman of Heart of Midlothian, acting in his capacity as chairman of the Super League, asking the national association formally to recognise the breakaway movement.

Yesterday, Jim Farry, the secretary of the SFA, responded, saying: "The principle which has been adopted is that it is necessary for the association to approve any league or combination of clubs." The Scottish Super League at this stage is not an approved league. It does not exist, it is not an approved combination of clubs. There-

fore, it is not an authorised football body and anyone inducing another member club of the SFA to join such a body would be in breach of Article 73 of the national association."

The SFA's announcement follows a blocking manoeuvre earlier this month by the Scottish Football League, which declared that the letters of resignation received by the breakaway clubs — Aberdeen, Celtic, Dundee United, Heart of Midlothian, Hibernian, Motherwell, Rangers and St Johnstone — were invalid because they were undated. This objection by the SFL led the SFA to say the Super League had not been properly constituted.

However, the embryonic Super League chose yesterday to announce that it had agreed to accept membership applications from Dumfries and Galloway, Ayrshire and Partick Thistle. Two more applications, from Airdrieonians and Dundee, were rejected, although it was stressed that both clubs would try again in the foreseeable future.

The statement by the Scottish Super League also contained a significant gesture towards reconciliation with the Scottish Football League. It read: "To help bring about essential dialogue, we are contacting the Scottish Football League today to inform them that the ten club chairmen who represent the clubs in the Super League wish to meet with the Scottish Football League as a matter of

urgency. This is a positive step and we look forward to a fruitful meeting."

There was no official reply from the Scottish Football League yesterday, but it is expected that, like the SFA, the official body will not communicate with a body it does not recognise. It is likely, however, that the ten chairmen will ask for a meeting in their capacity as representatives of member clubs.

In addition, an extraordinary general meeting of the Scottish Football League will be convened shortly, probably next month, at which a proposal to form four divisions of ten teams will be debated. It is this proposal, supported by 30 of the existing member clubs, which offers the most likely chance of compromise.



**WOMEN p5**  
Jeanette  
Winterson:  
an idealist  
about love



# LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 1992

**HOMES p7**  
Under the  
hammer:  
repossessed  
houses



10

OPENING LINES: the first chapters of some of this autumn's strongest Booker contenders

## Pilgrim through a barren land



**P.D. James's latest novel *The Children of Men* is set in a future England where human infertility has spread like a plague. In the third in our series, the central character, Theodore Faron, introduces himself ...**

FRIDAY 1 JANUARY 2021

**E**arly this morning, 1 January 2021, three minutes after midnight, the last human being to be born on earth was killed in a pub brawl in a suburb of Buenos Aires, aged twenty-five years two months and twelve days. If the first reports are to be believed, Joseph Ricardo died as he had lived. The distinction, if one can call it that, of being the last human whose birth was officially recorded, unrelated as it was to any personal virtue or talent, had always been difficult for him to handle. And now he is dead.

The news was given to us here in Britain on the nine o'clock programme of the State Radio Service and I heard it fortuitously. I had settled down to begin this diary of the last half of my life when I noticed the time and thought I might as well catch the headlines to the nine o'clock bulletin. Ricardo's death was the last item mentioned, and then only briefly, a couple of sentences delivered without emphasis in the newscaster's carefully non-committal voice. But it seemed to me, hearing it, that it was a small additional justification for beginning the diary today, the first day of a new year and my fiftieth birthday.

As a child I had always liked that distinction, despite the inconvenience of having it follow Christmas so quickly so that one present — it never seemed notably superior to the one I would in any case have received — had to do for both celebrations.

As I begin writing, the three events, the New Year, my fiftieth birthday, Ricardo's death, hardly justify sullying the first pages of this new loose-leaf notebook. But I shall continue, one small additional defence against personal accidie. If there is nothing to record, I shall record the nothingness and then if, and when, I reach old age — as most of us can expect to — we have become experts at prolonging life — I shall open one of my tins of hoarded marmalade and light my small personal bonfire of vanities. I have no intention of leaving the diary as a record of one man's last years. Even in my most egotistical moods I am not as self-deceiving as that. What possible interest can there be in the journal of Theodore Faron, Doctor of Philosophy, Fellow of Merton College, historian of the Victorian age, divorced, childless, solitary, whose only claim to notice is that he is cousin to Xan Lyndhurst, the dictator and Warden of England.

No additional personal record is, in any case, necessary. All over the world nation states are preparing to store their testimony for the posterity which we can still occasionally convince ourselves may follow us; those creatures from another planet who may land on this green wilderness and ask what kind of sentient life once inhabited it. We are storing our books and manuscripts, the great paintings, the musical scores and instruments, the artefacts. The world's greatest libraries will in forty years' time at most be darkened and sealed. The buildings, those that are still standing, will speak for themselves. The

soft stone of Oxford is unlikely to survive more than a couple of centuries. Already the University is arguing about whether it is worth refacing the crumbling Sheldonian.

But I like to think of those mythical creatures landing in St Peter's Square and entering the great Basilica, silent and echoing under the centuries of dust. Will they realize that this was once the greatest of man's temples to one of his many gods? Will they be curious about his nature, this deity who was worshipped with such pomp and splendour, intrigued by the mystery of his symbol, at once so simple, the two crossed sticks ubiquitous in nature, yet laden with gold, gloriously jewelled and adorned? Or will their values and their thought processes be so alien to ours that nothing of awe or wonder will be able to touch them? But despite the discovery — it 1997 was it? — of a planet which the astronomer told us could support life, few of us really believe that they will come. They must be there. It is surely unreasonable to credit that only one small star in the immensity of the universe is capable of developing and supporting intelligent life. But we shall not get to them and they will not come to us.

**W**e are outraged and demoralized less by the impending end of our species, less even by our inability to prevent it, than by our failure to discover the cause. Western science and Western medicine haven't prepared us for the magnitude and humiliation of this ultimate failure. There have been many diseases which have been difficult to diagnose or cure and one which almost depopulated two continents before it spent itself. But we have always in the end been able to explain why. We have given names to the viruses and germs which, even today, take possession of us, much to our chagrin since it seems a personal affront that they should still assail us, like old enemies who keep up the skirmish and bring down the occasional victim when their victory is assured.

Western science has been our god. In the variety of its power it has preserved, comforted, healed, warmed, fed and entertained us and we have felt free to criticize and occasionally reject it as men have always rejected their gods, but in the knowledge that despite our apostasy, this deity, our creature and our slave, would still provide for us: the anaesthetic for the pain, the spare heart, the new lung, the antibiotic, the moving wheels and the moving pictures. The light will always come on when we press the switch and if it doesn't we can find out why. Science was never a subject I was at home with. I understood little of it at school and I understand little more now that I'm fifty. Yet it has been my god too, even if its achievements are incomprehensible to me, and I share the universal disillusionment of those whose god has died.

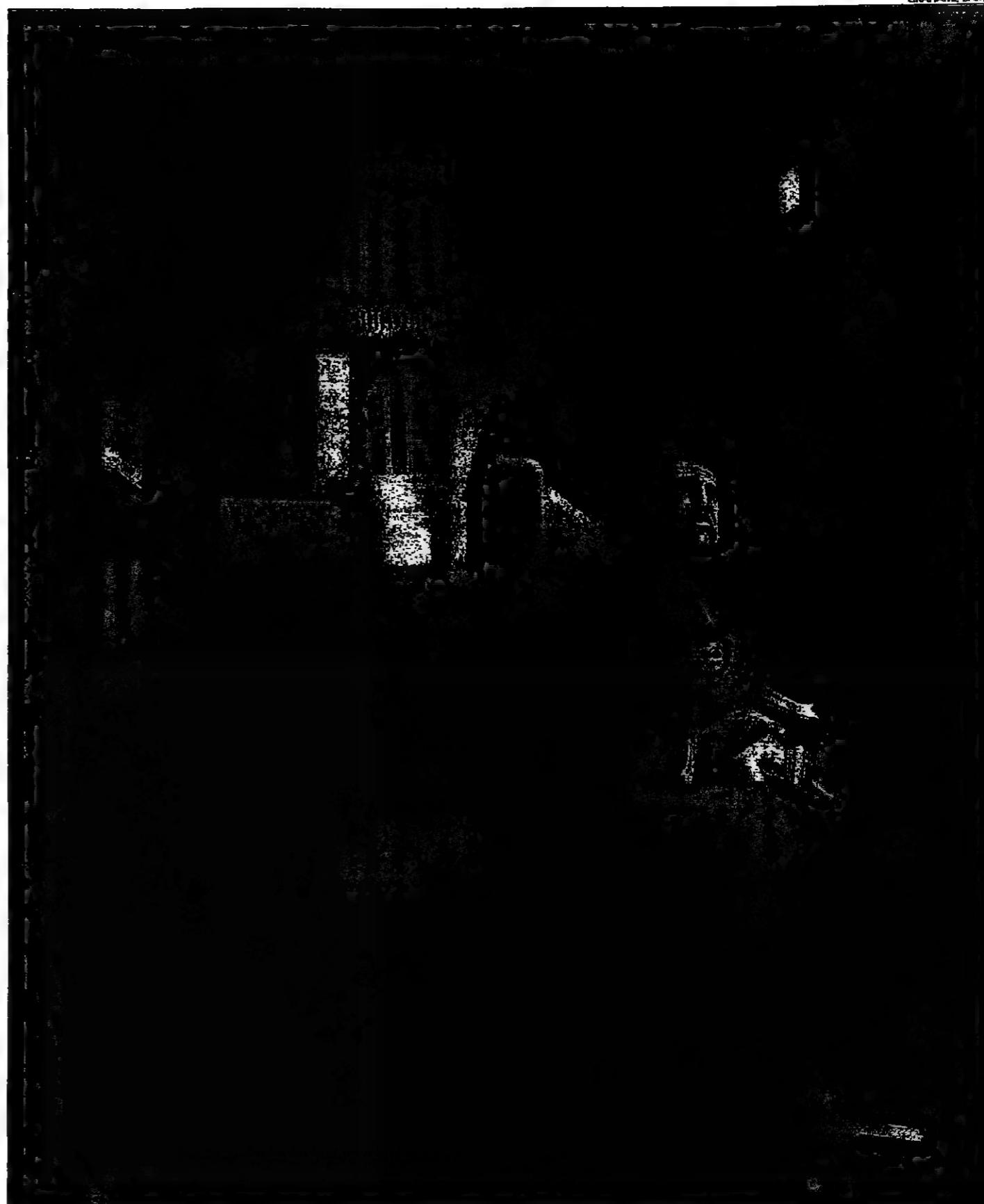
I can clearly remember the confident words of one biologist spoken when it had finally become apparent that nowhere in the whole world was there a pregnant

woman: "It may take us some time to discover the cause of this apparent universal infertility." We have had twenty-five years and we no longer even expect to succeed. Like a lecherous stud suddenly stricken with impotence, we are humiliated at the very heart of our faith in ourselves. For all our knowledge, our intelligence, our power, we can no longer do what the animals do without thought. No wonder we both worship and resent them.

In our universal bereavement, like grieving parents, we have put away all painful reminders of our loss. The children's playgrounds in our parks have been dismantled. For the first twelve years after Omega the swings were looped up and secured, the slides and climbing frames left unpainted. Now they have finally gone and the asphalt playgrounds have been grassed over or sown with flowers like small mass graves. The toys have been burnt, except for the dolls which have become for some half-demented women a substitute for children. The schools, long closed, have been boarded up or used as centres for adult education. The children's books have been systematically removed from our libraries. Only on tape and records do we now hear the voices of children, only on film or on television programmes do we see the bright, moving images of the young. Some find them unbearable to watch but most feed on them as they might a drug.

The children born in the year 1995 are called Omegas. No generation has been more studied, more examined, more agonized over, more valued or more indulged. They were our hope, our promise of salvation and they were — they still are — exceptionally beautiful. It sometimes seems that nature in her ultimate unkindness wished to emphasize what we have lost. The boys, men of twenty-five now, are strong, individualistic, intelligent and handsome as young gods. Many are also cruel, arrogant and violent, and this has been found to be true of Omegas all over the world. The dreaded gangs of the Painted Faces who drive round the countryside at night to ambush and terrorize unwary travellers are rumoured to be Omegas. It is said that when an Omega is caught he is offered immunity if he is prepared to join the State Security Police, whereas the rest of the gang, no more guilty, are sent on conviction to the Penal Colony on the Isle of Man, to which all those convicted of crimes of violence, burglary or repeated theft are now banished. But if we are unaware to drive unprotected on our crumbling secondary roads, our towns and cities are safe, crime effectively dealt with at last by a return to the deportation policy of the nineteenth century.

**T**he university colleague who takes Omega with total calmness is Daniel Hirstfield, but then, as professor of statistical palaeontology, his mind ranges over a different dimension of time. Like the God of the old hymn, a thousand ages in his sight are like an evening gone. Sitting beside me at a College feast in the year when I



was wine secretary, he said: "What are you giving us with the grouse, Faron? That should do very nicely. Sometimes I fear you are a little inclined to be too adventurous. And I hope you have established a rational drinking-up programme. It would distress me, on my deathbed, to contemplate the barbarian Omega making free with the College cellar."

I said: "We're thinking about it. We're still laying down, of course, but on a reduced scale. Some of my colleagues feel we are being too pessimistic."

"Oh, I don't think you can possibly be too pessimistic. I can't think why all you seem so surprised at Omega. After all, of the four billion life forms which have existed on this planet, three billion, nine hundred and sixty million are now extinct. We don't know why. Some

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tomorrow. Doctor Criminate by Malcolm Bradbury

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siren call of the  
cosmetic counters**



Now, the interesting thing about nail polish is that it comes without instructions. Did you know that? This was my first setback, really, and it was one from which I never properly recovered. The other interesting thing is that nail polish remover, if you splash it about too liberally, removes polish quite indiscriminately — from your best sandals, for example, and your

chest of drawers. Also, it is not a good idea to put used cotton buds, soaked with nail polish remover, directly on a mahogany dining-table, because not only does the surface mysteriously acquire pits and scars, but the lacerations have white hair growing out of them, which won't come off again, ever.

Within minutes of standing my new regime, I had run up damages to an approximate replacement value of £1,200. But I was not down-hearted. I had applied a transparent goo of base-coat to all of my fingernails (including the right-hand ones, which were tricky) and was now ready to drink sherbet, eat Turkish delight and watch an American mini-series until the next stage. "I'm suddenly a female female," I sang. "Da da dum da dum da de ee." I picked up the remote control from the carpet and was surprised to discover that a layer of speckled gunk had attached itself to all the nails that had come in contact with the floor.

Spit. Peering at the other hand (which looked OK), I cautiously tapped all the nails with a finger to check they were dry. They weren't. Three hours later, my fifth attempt at a base-coat was almost dry, but I was feeling strangely detached from my surroundings.

because I had just spent a whole evening not using my fingers. Every impulse to pick up a tissue, or stroke the cat, or wipe hair from my eyes had been followed once (with disastrous results) and thereafter strenuously denied. At one point, the phone had rung, and after a period of whimpering with indecision I had answered it by picking up the receiver between my elbows and then dropping it on the desk, in a manner reminiscent of thriller heroines tied to kitchen chairs. "Hello?" I yelled, kneeling beside the receiver, and wagging my fingers like a madwoman. "Hello?" I said again, and went dead.

Eventually I took the whole lot off again, partly because the removal process was the only one I was good at, partly because I realized that novice nail-painting is not something to be attempted alone, after all. It requires the attendance of slaves. I did a swift impression of Lady Macbeth (damned spot, and all that), and went to bed. And there I dreamed of waltzing through bright cosmetic halls, dressed in pink gauze, carrying bags and bags of lovely self-indulgent stuff for getting Ribena stains out of the sofa.

I have never lingered in cosmetics halls. In fact, I have never really understood what they are for. Why do they invariably lurk at the entrance of department stores, blocking one's progress to the real business inside? Is it a subtle furnishing process? Or is the idea to soften you up? The luxuriant chrome and lights, the shrill exciting perfumes, the gallons of moisturiser (in tiny pots) — I figure that this sensual riot is not designed to trip up the women, and remind them that shopping is basically self-flattery and treats. By the time you actually buy something, you see, you feel so madly feminine that you shell out wildly for an extra tub of bath sealant.

But I am only guessing, because personally I always draw a deep breath at the threshold to the shop, take a last memorising look at the alien sea of feminine tinkery with my eyes half-closed against the unaccustomed glamour of it all. If I pause nervously to examine a lipstick, and a lady asks "Can I help you?", I freeze, and then scuttle sharpish to the lifts.

But suddenly, a few weeks ago, I felt an urge to paint my fingernails. It was weird and unaccountable. One minute I was quite normal and stable, attempting to play a well-regulated game of hide and seek with cats who can't (or won't) count to 20.

And the next, I was overtaken by an access of femininity, humming "I Enjoy Being a Girl" with brio, and breezing into cosmetics halls demanding a range of nail colours and offering to trade unwanted cat-flap accessories by way of payment. Funny how life can change.

Single life suddenly looked quite different, you see: I caught a glimpse of another world, originating in the sort of TV advertisement where pink gauze curtains billow sensuously in a boudoir full of white light and a woman with fantastic hair pamper herself with a beauty product (or tampons). Most people probably regard nail varnish as either functional or tacky, but to me it acquired the force of revelation. Previously the idea of pampering myself meant watching the *EastEnders* omnibus when I had already seen both episodes in the week. But now it meant inhabiting an aura of solitary voluptuousness, spending whole yummy evenings watching paint dry.

Sept 11 1992

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

**VOLUNTATI AND THE MUSICALACKERS:** Following the triumph of his opera *The Queen of Spades*, Tchaikovsky was commissioned by the Imperial Theatre, St. Petersburg to write two one-act pieces, an opera and a ballet, *The result*. This production by Massimo Bourni's innovative contemporary dance company Adventures in Motion Pictures, is one of the festival's highlights. Sung in English in a new translation by David Lloyd-Jones, King's Theatre, Leven Street, 7pm.

**SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:** A chamber music concert featuring the band song cycle *Les Habsards*, Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 6 in G, "Mozartiana", and Schubert's "Verlaine Nachte". The ensemble statement on decadent romances. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, 7.30pm.

**HIS MAJESTY:** Rehearsal and Orange Thistle, the first of the festival's previously unperformed play on monarchy, democracy and abdication. St. Martin's Theatre, Edinburgh Festival, Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. Mats 8pm.

**BENJAMIN FRITH:** In the first of two double concertos looking at Beethoven's most demanding and intricate piano music, the pianist tackles the massive *Dishabandit Variations*. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, 10.30pm.

**Edinburgh International Festival** (Box office 031-225-5759)

**EDINBURGH FRINGE**

**ACCIDENTAL OUTRAGE OF ALL ANARCHISTS:** Events in Milan, 1969 inspired David P's play about the sudden death of a police suspect and its subsequent cover up, but Escaping the Conformity, the Edinburgh Fringe theme to bear on its new production of the bring political comedy.

**ACAPULCO:** Steven Berkoff swallows flies in a Mexican hotel while working on a Rambo film. Absorbing the heat of the sun. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 071-226-1916. Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sun, 3.30pm.

**DEATH AND THE MAIDENS:** And Dorfman's searching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Perseus Donmar Warehouse, and Hugh Ross makes up the new cast. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 071-836 5122. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 12.30pm.

**GRAND HOTEL:** Musical farce sugar high in the Twenties. Set in a grand hotel, the action is fast moving. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 071-380 9562. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 2.30pm, 12.30pm.

**MISFITS:** Reunited after a failed, barking youth outfit April De Angelis' quirky play, only a part success. Royal Court, Stephen Square, SW1 071-580 4222. Tues-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 12.30pm.

**FROM A JACK TO A KING:** Whiny and slyish version of Beckett's classic to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Status songs. Ambassador's, West Street, London WC2 071-839 1111. Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri-Sat, 7pm, Sat, 10.30pm and 8.30pm. 12.30pm.

**LADY, BE GOOD:** Ian Talbot's admirable staging of the Gershwin's famous song and dance show. Bernard Cribbins plays a comic lawyer. Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 071-2431. 7pm, mat Friday, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

**LA MAMBO'S NIGHT:** Dream Action in a pool of red, Rattigan's leap production is long and lumpy but inlaid with musical images. Merlins (Oliver), South Bank, SE1 071-928 2282. Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mats tomorrow, Sat, 2pm, 4.45pm.

**MURDER IN ADVENTURE:** Gerald Harper and Philip Gidley play cross-dressing swashbucklers pitted wits against each other: fun-of-the-mill thriller.

## TODAY'S EVENTS

## ELSEWHERE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Sara Yelland

**Southside '92, Southside Community Centre, 177 Nicholson Street, Tonight-Sat, 10.30pm, Sun Sept 5**

**THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD:** Gary Drabant's new play about the Battle of Somme. Using visual imagery, Maria Productions' Youth Theatre. Maria Offspring, hope to resourceName the horror and waste of the protracted damage. Celtic Lodge, Brode's Close, Lawmarket, Tonight-Sat, 6.30pm, Sun Sept 5.

**WHAT THE BARBARIANS CANINE:** The star of this new play by Don Taylor which tells of the members of a society on which a new political and cultural orthodoxy has been imposed.

Corrupt and cynical, it also seems to pose questions about the role of theatre in relation to broader cultural values. The Peacock Club, 6-5 Charterhouse Street, Today-Sat, 2.20pm.

**WALLACE'S HEEL:** When Arthur Stevens steps out of his shower to find an old friend swinging beer in his hotel room, the trouble begins. For this friend died three years ago. To make matters worse, he is the spirit of the great Scottish hero William Wallace, who has returned fully intent on setting the record straight. Something to do with Pan-dimensional multi-particle physics? Galton Centre, 121 Montgomery Street, Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Box office 031-226-5138)

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

**Vaudville, Strand, WC2 071-838 9987:** Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 3.30pm, 12.30pm.

**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD:** A new production of Alfred Aikin's Tennessee Williams' play on the effects of sexual repression. Last performances, ends Aug 31. National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 071-921 2252. Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Tues, Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm, 1.30pm.

**PIRATES OF PENZANCE:** British Film Institute's first production of an old emigrant and his carpentry ego. A reveal to be heard. Victoria Palace (071-834 1317)

**LONG RUNNERS:** □ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (071-857 1044). □ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317)

□ Camers: Old Vic (071-921 2700). □ New Faces: New Vic (071-921 405 0722). □ Dancers: Lughnasa Garrick (071-594 0259). □ Don't Dress for Dinner: Apollo (071-857 1044). □ Evening Standard: Every Day's a Holiday (071-921 5925). □ Five Great British Movies: Lyc (071-941 0545). □ Good Rockin' Tonight: Prince of Wales (071-839 5911). □ Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat: Palace (071-834 1317). □ Love Never Dies: Drury Lane (071-836 7611). □ Les Misérables: Palace (071-834 0509). □ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-834 0509). □ My Fair Lady: New Vic (071-921 5911). □ Return to the Forbidden Planet: National (071-839 5400). □ Return to the Forbidden Planets: Cambridge (071-839 5400). □ The Wizard of Oz: Fortune (071-836 2288).

**SHADES:** Pauline Collins torn between her child, mum and manhood in Sharmen Macdonald's new play only sporadically absorbing. South Bank, SE1 071-921 2700. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 12.30pm.

**PIRATES OF PENZANCE:** British Film Institute's first production of an old emigrant and his carpentry ego. A reveal to be heard. Victoria Palace (071-834 1317)

**WOMAN'S DAY:** The 50th anniversary of the cult fopera, featuring the same cast as the original. Bazaar, 10th Floor, 100 New Bond Street, W1 071-480 8800. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, 12.30pm.

**SEX DRAMA OF SEPARATION:** Stoccard Channing as the black comedy artist in John Guare's fine play on love, loss and memory. Peacock Theatre, Swan Lane, SW1 071-867 1045. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm, 9.30pm.

**TICKET INFORMATION:** supplied by SWET.

## NEW RELEASES

**ALIBI:** (18) Seymour Weiss fights another alien infestation in deep space, with sex and download. Charles D.utton, Charles Dance, director, David Fincher. Odeon, Leicester Square (0426-915 683).

**JERSEY GIRL:** (15) Cinderella from New Jersey tries for a Manhattan Prince Charming. Sale romantic comedy with Ian McEwan, Thomas Jane, Gere, Dylan McDermott; director, David Burton Morris. Plaza (071-497 9999).

**LOVERS:** (18) In Spain's Finch, Victoria Abril details her lodger's intended marriage. Excellent tale of male infidelity mounted by director Vincenzo Amato. MGM Piccadilly (071-3561 5663).

**WATERLAND:** (15) Jeremy Irons as the history teacher haunted by his Fenland childhood. Brae but failed attempt to lift the lid on the secret of the novel. Curzon West End (071-439 4865) Cheesecake (071-434 0091) UCI Whiteleys (071-972 3332).

**BEETHOVEN:** (U) Slabbing St.

## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol ( ) on release across the country

Reward brings disaster and joy to the suburbs. Adequate family comedy. Charles Grodin, Bonnie Hunt, director, Ivan Reitman. National General, 10th Floor, 100 New Bond Street (071-480 8800). MGM Piccadilly (071-343 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-972 3332).

**BELLE DU JOUR:** (18) Bunt's 1967 classic about the adventurous life of a bourgeois wife (Catherine Deneuve) and her lover (Alain Delon). Cost and compelling in a sparkling new print. Curzon, 10th Floor, 100 New Bond Street (071-480 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, 12.30pm.

**THE BUTCHER'S WIFE:** (12) Anch whimsy about a New York butcher's clavycravat wife (Diane Keaton) who gets pregnant and a general savings account and a new partner. Jeff Daniels, Mary Steenbergen, Director, Terry Hughes. MGM Piccadilly (071-343 0031).

**CASABLANCA:** (U) The 50th anniversary of the cult fopera, featuring the same cast as the original. Bazaar, 10th Floor, 100 New Bond Street (071-480 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, 12.30pm.

**WAITING:** (15) Sought mother (Muriel Hassell) awaits the birth surrounded by friends. Australian feminist comedy. Writer-director, Jackie McDonald. National Film Theatre (071-925 3232).

**THE MAMBO KING:** (15) Smartly mounted but simple-minded Oscar Hijuelo's novel about Cuban migrants in New York. Armand Assante, Antonio

3233.

**TICKET INFORMATION:** supplied by SWET.

## ENTERTAINMENTS

## LAST 2 WEEKS

## THE Sound of MUSIC

## SADLER'S WELLS

## 071-278 8916

## CINEMAS

## COLISEUM

## CAMDEN PHOENIX

## HORNBY

## HOWARD'S END

## JOHN

## KIRK

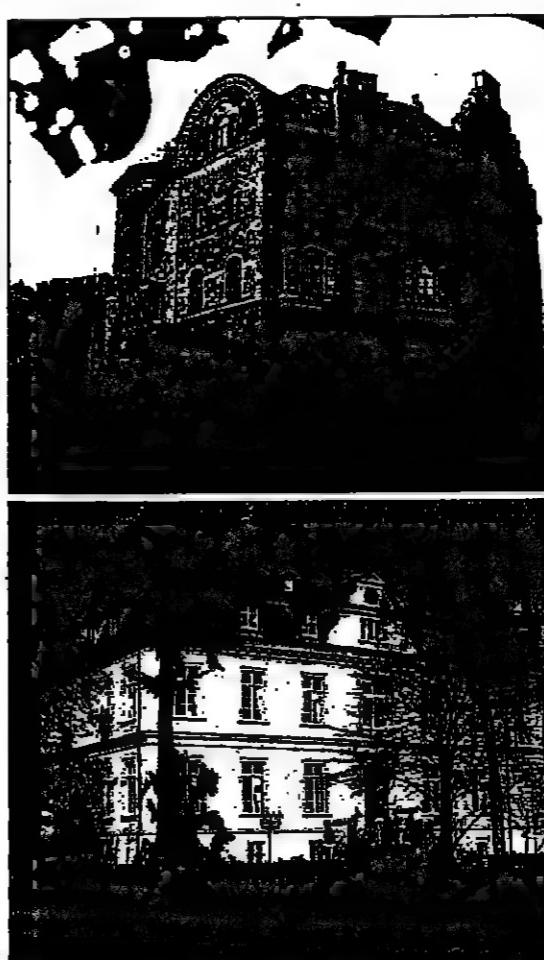
## LAWRENCE



# The man who collects castles



Castles in the hand: Schloss Bedburg (left), Burg Rheineck at Bad Breisig (top right), and Burg Hemmersbach at Kerpen where their collector, Herbert Hillebrand, has his office in the banqueting hall



Ian Murray on the ambitions of Herbert Hillebrand, a German property emperor who probably owns more moats and strongholds than anyone since the Hohenzollerns

**T**he banqueting hall of Burg Hemmersbach at Kerpen, near Cologne, is vast. Four big chandeliers swing from the beams over a table large enough to stage a banquet for 70 people. But even this room is too small to house anything larger than models of Herbert Hillebrand's monumental collection. For Hillebrand probably owns more castles in Germany today than anyone since the days of the Hohenzollerns.

He is so fond of this collection, however, that he has had large-scale models of part of it made and stuck on the walls and sloping roof of the hall, which he uses as an office, so that he can look up and enjoy them while he works. They are so many bird's-eye views of his treasures, which must inspire him in running his international property and building empire, as he sits at one corner of the huge dining table he uses as a desk. So, too, must the wall-to-ceiling photograph of his ever-growing family, which covers the end wall of the banqueting hall.

The models are of 13 of his network of 22 castles all over Germany, which he has bought and carefully restored over the past quarter of a century. He is currently negotiating to buy six more from among the 200 which have been put on the market in eastern Germany since unification. He thinks that by the time he has a total of 28 his urge to collect will be satisfied, but there is a look in his eye as he gazes up at his models that suggests he is too

hooked on the castle-buying bug ever to stop.

Herbert Hillebrand was a local builder in Kerpen who was becoming a successful property developer in 1970 when he bought Burg Ditschenk, not far away at Duren. It was in a sorry state of repair but he fell in love with the romantic moated and turreted stronghold, built by the Herzog von Jülich in 1217, and decided to renovate it as a present for his eldest daughter, Svenja. He paid only DM 100,000 for it — in those days the equivalent of about £10,000 — but he had to find another million to restore and equip it with central heating and an indoor swimming pool — a non-authentic luxury which he has installed in every castle he has collected.

The renovation was such a success that he was inspired to go on. He decided, too, that it was unfair for just one of his children to have a castle. He set about finding one for each of them. A strong Catholic, who has become involved in charity work for orphans in South America, he has 13 children so far, including four adopted Colombian orphans. The youngest is just over a year old but she likes the rest of them, and a castle she can call her own. Some of his older children have already been given a second one.

The collection is not, however,

simply a rich man's expensive foible. "It is not a hobby," he insisted. "There is too much work and worry involved. It is much easier and more profitable to put up new buildings. But I do love the old buildings: If I could just do what I wanted, I would only restore old buildings."

ing would be able to make money does be take into consideration how beautiful it is, or where it is situated.

At the same time the final decision on whether to buy depends on whether or not he really likes the castle. "It is like with a woman. Some you look at and just say ja."



They all have a turret of their own: Hillebrand with his children

Herr Hillebrand nevertheless aims to run his collection at a profit. His first priority when sizing up whether to buy a castle or not is "How can we use it?" Only when he is satisfied that the renovated build-

His collection consists of castles in all shapes and sizes. One has 120 rooms, others are small, moated jewels. The majority were built in the last century, but there are also romantic earlier castles overlooking

the Rhine and a splendid fortress at Hamburg.

He said that it was easy enough to find castles for sale if you wanted one. "There are many, many castles in Germany and most of them belong to the local communities. They do not have the money these days to look after them and are keen to privatise if only they can find a buyer."

In most cases, he said, he had been able to buy the castles very cheaply, although a usual condition of the contract of sale is that he renovates. The task of restoring a castle to its former glory is made easier by the extensive documentation available in state archives, even in eastern Germany, which when it was first built and it is therefore possible to recreate the original ideas of the architect.

Some of the best labour he finds in Poland these days. The Poles have a particular skill in making the ornate plasterwork ceilings which were frequently a feature of the castles' more gracious rooms.

The tax authorities provide an added incentive to restore. All investments to preserve buildings which are officially recognised as historic buildings qualify for a ten per cent tax rebate for ten years. This

means that anyone preserving such a structure can reclaim the full cost of restoration from the taxman over a decade. "You should tell the British about that idea. That might help there," Herr Hillebrand said.

Once the castle is restored, a process which can take two years or more, Herr Hillebrand rents it out. Sometimes the local authority which sold it to him in the first place takes it over again. The castles have a variety of new careers as hotels, museums, offices, old people's homes and the like. Inside each of those belonging to his children, however, there is a small area of living quarters which they can use if they want to one day.

As present, however, his whole family live at Kerpen, absent landlords of the castle collection. Busy as he is, Herr Hillebrand scarcely has time to visit the properties, although he does get to know each of them intimately during the complicated restoration process. They all become, in their way, his children.

Which one of them would he want to keep if he had to sell all the rest? Which would he move to his desert island? An affable man, who answered every question with a smile, Herr Hillebrand was worried by that one.

He strode up and down his banqueting hall gazing up lovingly at his collection, pausing and sighing in front of each of them. The choice was impossible. He frowned. "It would be too difficult," he said. "I would want all of them."

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

● AMSTERDAM: De Nederlandse Opera opens the 1992-1993 season with Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Delila*, a co-production with Bregenzer Festspiel conducted by Hartmut Haenchen. The pious Samson is sung by William Cochran and the heathen Delilah by Catherine Keen. Het Muziektheater, Waterlooplein 22, 1011 PG Amsterdam. Tel: (010) 31 20 23 26. Aug 31, Sept 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26.

● GSTAAD: The Gstaad-Saanenland Memphine Festival at venues around the town. Performances include the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Yehudi Menuhin on Aug 28, 29; *La traviata* conducted by Bruno Maderna on Sept 5, and the London Symphony Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas on Sept 11, 12. Gstaad-Saanenland Memphine Festival, c/o Verkehrs Büro, CH 3780 Gstaad. Tel (010) 411 3047173.

● PARIS: *Manifeste* at the Centre Georges Pompidou is an exhibition of everything from the years 1960 to 1990 collected by the centre. On the ground floor is a section on design, from aeroplanes to lemon-squeezers. On the upper floors there are innumerable art exhibits — some of which, in the Pop Art and Conceptual Art sections, deliberately make you laugh, such as pictures of visitors taken by hidden TV cameras which are like distorting mirrors. Plus the 1905 to 1960 collection, including works from the estate of Matisse's son.

*Manifeste*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. Tel (01) 33 44781233. The main art exhibition runs until Nov 9, but some sections will close from Sept 28 onwards.

● STRESA: The *Sestriere Musicall* continues into September. The events take place in theatres and churches around the beautiful town on the shores of Lake Maggiore and in the Palais Borromeo on Isola Bella, in the middle of the lake. Highlights include the St Petersberg Philharmonic Orchestra, Aug 30; the pianist Nikolai Magaloff, Sept 7; and violinist Stephan Tran Ngoc, Sept 12. *Sestriere Musicall*, Via R. Bonighi 4, 28049 Stresa. Tel: (010) 39 323 31095/30459. Until Sept 15.

● VIENNA: *Caricature and Satire*. An exhibition of 500 years of satirical drawings includes work by Leonardo da Vinci, Hogarth, Goya, Toussaint-Lautrec, and Daumier. Kunsthäus Wien, Untere Weißgerberstrasse 13. Tel: (43 1) 7120495. Daily 10-7pm. From Aug 20 to Oct 18.

HEATHER ALSTON

## MUSIC: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

### Baroque with cows

**A**t first, Daniel Spicka recalls, it seemed a preposterous idea in communist Czechoslovakia: a baroque music festival at the ostentatious South Moravian chateau of Valdice, once seat of the princely Liechtenstein family.

"We are 400 yards from the Austrian border — there used to be guards with sub-machine guns standing over there," Spicka says, pointing to a hillock. Behind him, under the leaves of a centuries-old maple, a quintet in period-dress accompanies a harpsichordist on baroque instruments.

Extravagantly dressed guests file in and out of the brick wine-cellars where a sumptuous buffet is spread, and recline on the lawn drinking Valdice's own 1989 Pinot Noir. Now it is in its third season, the Baroque Summerfest at Valdice does not seem at all preposterous.

Spicka, who is an architect and collector of baroque instruments, combined forces with Radomir Neprás, the chateau's chief restorer, to hold the first festival in 1989, when it was only an afternoon long. Now, over a period of eight days in August, visitors come from Prague, Vienna and London for a two-day programme of elegant baroque concerts, operas, picnics, feasts and fireworks. But Valdice is not a pure tourist event, since it is held as much for the 50-odd musicians as for the guests.

The leading early music expert, Jiri Kotouc of Prague's National Theatre Orchestra, is the music director. Scholars such as Professor Jan Smazlý of Birmingham University direct and produce the baroque operas and concerts. For a fortnight, the musicians live and work together at Valdice, much as court musicians must have done when Prince

Charles Eusebius von Liechtenstein sought to make his court the rival of the emperor's in Vienna, 65km away.

"It's exhilarating and exhausting," says Stephen Bull, a baroque violinist from London who directs the orchestra. "In eight days I've done 20 concerts. When we play on the lawn much of it is sight reading. Daniel refuses to tell us what to play. It's just as it must have been for a court musician. The only person missing is Prince Liechtenstein."

Causing the most anxiety, however, are their plans to refurbish British monuments and even to build some new ones.

The cemeteries and memorials that once filled the landscape were destroyed by heavy bombing during the second world war, and the area is thus acutely short of "markers".

Although none of the building plans have yet met with official approval by the British embassy or any of the British regimental associations, it is not for want of trying. Colonel Ivan Ivanov, one of the most celebrated of these new hustlers, has

FOLLOWING hard on the heels of the spate of events dedicated to Lorenzo the Magnificent, Italy has now seen the opening of a new cycle of exhibitions, this time marking the 500th anniversary of the death of Piero della Francesca, one of Italy's greatest Renaissance artists. Set in many of the places in Tuscany and Umbria where the artist lived and worked, they give a delightful insight into the Italian *quattrocento*.

The son of a shoemaker, Piero was born in Sansepolcro in Umbria, and although he worked in Florence, Arezzo, Rome and Urbino, the small town remained the pivotal point of his work.

PETER GREEN

## New monuments for the Crimea?

Russian entrepreneurs are on the move to take over the old battlefields and cemeteries

**T**he battlefields of the Crimean War are being fought over once again. Free-market capitalism in Russia has created a new breed of cowboy: the Battlefield Tour Operator. Much to the irritation of the official Russian guide organisation, Intourist, these new entrepreneurs have been drawing up itineraries, booking buses and doing up the abandoned hotels that once provided de luxe summer residences for Party members, in an attempt to hijack the interest of British tourists in the area.

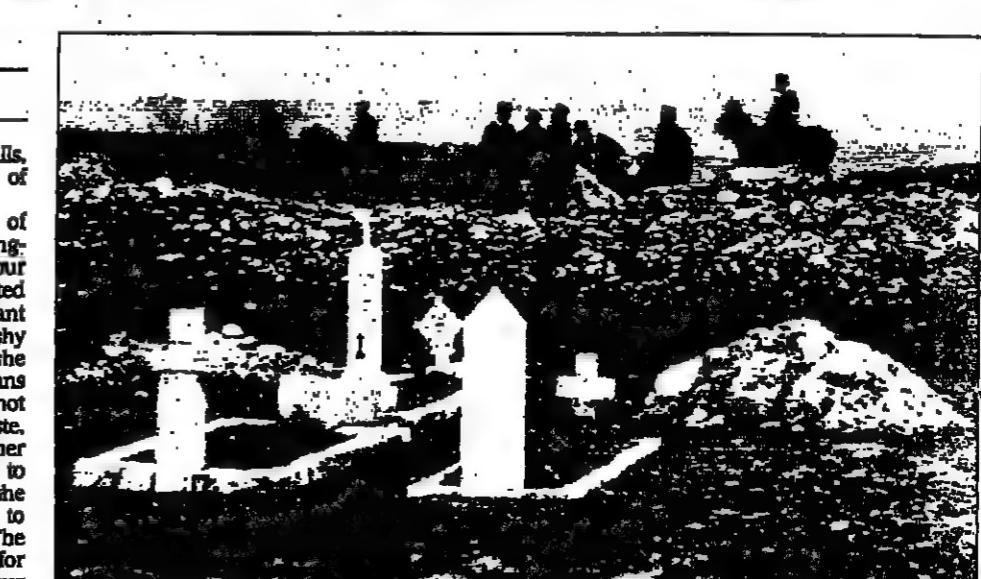
He also has plans to build a new Crimean war museum in the shape of a cross, and he wants to excavate one of the British ships that went down off the coast at Sebastopol on November 14, 1854, which is said to contain full bottles of whisky. His most ambitious plan is to build a hotel right in the middle of Balaklava battlefield.

The trouble is, although they mean well, they are slightly misguided," says Lt Col Julian Lancaster, who is in charge of building a new official British memorial on Cathcart Hill which will open in October. "They wanted to recreate the cemeteries as they were before they were bombed, by just putting up new headstones without knowing where people were actually buried." Lt Col Lancaster is also worried that unless checked, the new entrepreneurs might start selling off

the surviving cannonballs, muskets and other items of historical interest.

Valmari Holt, director of Holt's Tours — Britain's longest-established battlefield tour company — has been accosted dozens of times by aspirant tourism magnates with flashy business cards. Although she describes some of their plans as "rather alarming" and not in keeping with British taste, which tends to be rather "purist" when it comes to battlefields, she applauds the fact that they are trying to promote new ideas. "The problem is there isn't room for dozens of Crimean war tour operators and conservationists, nor enough money. When I ask them how they intend to fund their projects their answer is always 'Money no problem', but who in Russia is going to support a plan to build memorials to the English, at a time when they can barely find enough to keep themselves alive?"

Certainly the irony of erecting monuments glorifying the military success of the opposition seems to have escaped these commercialists in their desperation for hard currency.



British officers on the lookout at Cathcart Hill: how will they be remembered?

There is an undeniable need for something more to be done to mark the area's historical importance. The memorial at Cathcart Hill will be the only one there. Meanwhile on the heights above the Alma there are broken headstones commemorating the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who fell there, and even human bones lying on the surface of the ground. The North valley, the site of the Charge of the Light Brigade,

remains remarkably intact, as is the farm that formed Lord Raglan's HQ, but there is no guarantee that they will stay this way.

Despite their failure to secure much support for their own ideas, the new entrepreneurs have at least been allowed to help Colonel Lancaster with his current project.

He has employed Russian workmen to build the obelisk because "the most important

thing as far as the Russians are concerned is to prove to potential investors in the West that Russian workmen funded by British money is a combination that can work, even if it is just on one war memorial".

In fact they could not have chosen a better symbol to work on, or one more likely to inspire Western sympathy.

CATHERINE MILNER

## ART: ITALY

### Piero, Piero everywhere

His house now serves as an atmospheric display area and has opened its doors to an exhibition entitled *In Piero's Sphere: Painting in Central Italy during the Age of Piero della Francesca*. It traces the rise of Piero's art and the way it spread beyond his native territory, where many of his greatest works remain to the courts of Italy.

The celebrations offer an opportunity to view some of Piero's masterpieces, such as

an impressive *Resurrection of Christ* and the polyptych of *The Virgin and St Julian*, in the setting of the Val Tiberina landscape which provides the background for many of the artist's works. Works which inspired Piero, by artists such as Sassetta and Beato Angelico, are also on view.

Another part of the celebratory cycle, located in the magnificent Ducal Palace in Urbino, is *Piero and Urbino: Piero della Francesca, Basilica di San Francesco, Arezzo*. All exhibitions until Oct 18.

and other major works. The bracelets, brooches and necklaces are recreated by the contemporary Italian jeweller Giulio Manfredi and include a faithful interpretation of the Queen of Sheba's diadem and a white-gold bracelet inspired by the rhythms of the fresco.

RUTH SULLIVAN

● In Piero's Sphere: Painting in Central Italy during the Age of Piero della Francesca. *Casa del Piero, Sansepolcro*.

● Piero and Urbino: Piero and the Renaissance Courts. *Palazzo Ducale, Urbino*.

● Through Piero's Eyes: Clothing and Jewellery in the Works of Piero della Francesca. *Pierodella Francesca, Basilica di San Francesco, Arezzo*. All exhibitions until Oct 18.

# Passionate apostle for the lexicon of love

Alice Thomson meets Jeanette Winterson, literary acrobat, uncompromising careerist and idealist about love

**H**ere are the facts. She was born in 1959 and adopted as a baby by a Pentecostal Evangelical couple in Lancashire. In her mid-teens she had a romance with a girl, a fish-filler. Her mother had her publicly denounced in the church and she was forced out of her home. She worked in a funeral parlour and as a domestic in a mental hospital before going to Oxford University and becoming a novelist. She has a personal astrologer and is an organic vegetarian. She owns a converted MG, two cats and is a lesbian.

Jeanette Winterson does not like facts. She prefers girls with webbed feet. A lady whose tears have turned to jewels. A family whose house has no floors so they spend their lives living on tightropes. A husband who gulps a vatful of poisoned milk and swells to such a size that he explodes.

Ms Winterson is the author of five novels, including *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*; *The Passion*, and *Sexing the Cherry*. Her latest, *Written on the Body* is about love and passion, concentrating on the most physical and tangible aspects of relationships, but remaining sensual rather than erotic. The main character is asexual but far from unsexed and the litany of love affairs she runs through seem highly personal.

Ms Winterson refuses to confirm or deny whether the novel is based on personal experience. "None of my novels are autobiographical," she says. *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* is about a founding brought up by pentecostal parents who is forced out of her home for having a lesbian love affair, but this, as Ms Winterson explains does not make it autobiographical.

"My novels are stories and I will never for anyone sort out what happened and what didn't happen because the principle of my work is to suggest that we can never really know what did and didn't happen, that the boundaries between history and storytelling, between reality and dreaming, are always being blurred and muddled," she says.

What is certain is that Ms Winterson shares a house with her lover in Dartmouth Park, north London. She has a gentle demeanour and is slight but not frail. Her house is filled with delicate furniture and her soft Lancashire vowels echo around the sitting room. Like her novels her conversation does not follow a pre-determined course. She marries history to myth, aphorism to poetry and fairy tale to fact, but she always returns to love.

"Love is the driving human force, whether it is love in the passionate sense, filial or family love or love's obverse — hate."

about love. However it is debased or misinterpreted, it is a redemptive factor," she says. "To focus on one individual so their desires become superior to yours is a very cleansing experience."

Ms Winterson is concerned that relationships often founder on the clichés used to express passion and desire and hopes that her new novel will expand the lexicon of love, exploring uncharted linguistic territory, in an area where the literary paths are especially well trodden.

"Art is about tapping into the human condition and trying to define those turbulent, but often articulate emotions which beset everyone. Reassurance isn't about the answers, but finding a voice and a structure to your feelings," she says.

Although an intensely private

**'Love is the driving human force, whether it is love in the passionate sense, filial or family love or love's obverse — hate'**

person, she has an evangelical yearning to reach out to people and a gift for preaching which she learned as a child brought up on a diet of the Bible and sermons. "A great many people write to me with their thoughts and questions. Women in particular need role models. I want to influence the way people think to jolt them out of assumption and habit and let them discover their passions. I have a challenge not to be shoddy or lazy in art or life."

Ms Winterson has no role models but does admit to admiring Dolly Parton for being strong, doing what she wants and for inventing herself. She reads some poetry and pre-second world war writers, but of her own generation says: "They are deeply complacent and there is a lot of copy-casting. Few writers achieve their own form and open up new landscapes and there has been a total turning back of any pleasure in language."

She believes that, like love, words can both release and suffocate. She is, first and foremost, an amazing literary acrobat and, despite occa-

sionally appearing trite, seems able to make her stories, however fantastical, seem credible, as unusual language complements unusual situations. "I want to encourage language in all its complexity; that's what really excites me. Too often it is just sloppy and dirty," she says.

"In the other arts you learn your craft first. Unfortunately language is the currency of everyday shopping lists. Writers need to know nothing, just pour out their experience and follow the rudiments of schoolboy grammar."

Not surprisingly, none of her close friends are writers. She has four good friends, all women — an actress, a publisher, a painter and an architect — who turns to for support. But having been brought up by her mother to believe that she could save the world, her confidence in her own abilities has rarely wavered and extends beyond her own medium into television, newspapers and films.

She is best acquainted with television as *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* was made into a successful small screen drama series. She feels that she has managed to subvert the relentless realism of the medium and use it for her own ends, but is clearly still deeply suspicious of it, and refuses to own a television. "It's shoddy. We make fifth rate programmes when people deserve first rate ones. I can only make a certain number of programmes so most of the time there is nothing to watch. It would be better if the screens were blank," she says. As for newspapers, she is not prepared to read the "dung-heaps" of words that are chanted out every day although she is prepared to write the occasional article.

Her attitude to films is less scathing but she still feels that they need the Winterson touch and has written a screen play, *Great Moments in Aviation* that will premiere at Cannes next year, about a black woman who comes to Britain in the late 1950s thinking it is the Promised Land. "It is about challenging your assumptions," she says.

This is typical Winterson. She believes that everyone should challenge themselves and is offering me advice on my career after an hour's acquaintance. "Everyone has potential. To compromise and turn your back on what you want is extremely damaging. In the Winterson world that cannot happen. You must keep developing yourself and see past your own full stops," she says. Her favourite characters are always pushing themselves forward. Flying off into the ether, dancing themselves into dizzy points of light, falling in love with beautiful women.

She does not think these attitudes have alienated male readers and believes that her masculine characters are often role models (the two main ones so far are Jordan, the son of the dogwoman, an androgynous sort who dresses in pinnacles, and Henri, an army cook who idolises Napoleon). "I wouldn't be naive enough to think that the males I come across on the street are sensitive, tender or loving," she says. "But I am prepared to put considerate men in my books because it may trigger something of the sort of man they would like to be." When I wrote about Jordan and Henri I got a lot of letters from young men, especially in the armed forces, confiding that they did cry in their bunks and feel insecure with

the he-man image. It may be that the macho conspiracy is so deep that men can't write about it. I don't know."

Ms Winterson only selectively engages in the outside world. On the rare occasions she is not working, her time is spent browsing in the British Library, cycling, looking after the cats, and seeing her friends. "I love my partner very much but she doesn't come first, work does," she says. "It wouldn't make any difference if I didn't see anyone or do anything, I would still be able to write."

She is prepared to enter the fray over certain issues and campaigns for Stonewall, the homosexual pres-

sure group, because, "someone needs to fight for our rights", but she dislikes being famous. "If I want to buy concert tickets I do not want to be asked about art or have tracts of my book quoted at me."

Her first four novels have brought both excellent reviews and financial independence, but if her fame fell away, she could easily leave her liberal, comfortable world. "I would live anywhere to keep on writing," she says. As Napoleon says in *The Passion*: "I go on writing so that I will always have something to read."

Written on the Body will be published by Jonathan Cape on September 10 (£13.99).

Far from being liberated by democracy, the Russian professional woman is finding life even more harassing

I'll pay," whispered the elegant American to Ella Levansdikaya when he realised his sweet talking was getting him nowhere. Ms Levansdikaya, a teacher of English in a Moscow secondary school earns extra income as a guide-translator for business entrepreneurs in the new Russia. She describes the western commercial types as "John Adventurers".

The end of the planned economy has meant unemployment for many professional women. Nowadays, anything goes. Corruption, pimping and prostitution were not unknown in Russia before perestroika. It is just that now they have come out of the closet.

The American assured 39-year-old Ms Levansdikaya, divorced with a 14-year-old daughter, that he could have had any of the other women in the room. However, having employed her as a translator all day, she and she alone had become the object of his lust.

Sexual harassment has always existed in Russia now it is endemic. Ms Levansdikaya says she knows of one case where an office job was advertised and a very pretty woman was selected from a huge crowd of over-qualified hopefuls. She found she was expected to be the "office wife", serving her four male co-workers sexually, as well as doing the shorthand and typing.

"It is almost impossible for a western woman to understand the stress and pressure of a Russian woman's life," Ms Levansdikaya says. "Western people disappoint me."

Her translating and guiding work gives her the advantage of meeting and befriending foreigners and now she has the freedom and luxury to travel. She stayed in Surrey with an English woman she befriended in

## Sweet talk, sour lives



Images of indulgence: the real luxuries for women in the new Russia are female friends and happy marriages

Moscow, her daughter Eugenie attended a local state school for a month.

She spoke to several women's organisations during her visit and relates how a "Third World" woman advised her: "Tell the Russians not to destroy the statues of Stalin." Of course," Ms Levansdikaya says, "the Soviet Union was the best friend of Third World countries and now they feel neglected, but when these women visited the USSR, they were shown only the best things. Telling her how terrible life can be in Britain for black and Asian people cuts no ice with

Ms Levansdikaya. "Life is terrible for all people in Russia; particularly for women."

Contraception and family planning are one of the worst problems. The men here condoms which are, in any case, not easily available. Ms Levansdikaya is lucky: through knowing the right person, giving the doctor a present and sending the Swiss supplier a record of her periods, she has now been fitted with her second Swiss copper T. Russian coils are large and terribly painful to insert.

would spend it giving private lessons to earn a little more money for my daughter". In a society where most have very little, envy and competition often sour potential relationships. Female companionship and friendship are a luxury.

According to Ms Levansdikaya, Russians are sexually prudish. Lesbianism "doesn't exist". The mere mention of Marina Navratilova elicits scorn, contempt and titters. Homosexual acts between consenting males are illegal.

**M**s Levansdikaya's English language students were reluctant to study Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, solely on the basis of Wilde's homosexuality, which was described in the preface written in the 1980s to have been caused by the excesses of a bourgeois lifestyle.

Ms Levansdikaya studied English linguistics and has a degree from the Moscow Institute of Foreign Language, now called the Moscow Institute of Linguistics. Her career has been a little miracle in itself as she not only had to overcome the disadvantages of being a woman, but also of being Jewish, although her Jewishness is confined to her ethnic heritage.

Ms Levansdikaya, married for seven years, has been divorced since 1986. "We have a lot of very unhappy marriages because of the problems of economic dependence and housing."

One thing that really fascinated her during her trip to England: "All those middle-aged couples holding hands and kissing each other hello and goodbye. They must have been married for 25 or 30 years. Is that really possible in the west?"

JUDITH STEINER

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# Go west, young water flea

Where clam and crayfish reigned, quagga and ruffe are moving in. Now the Americans are out to stop the colonisation of their lakes. Nick Nuttall reports

The Great Lakes of North America are being invaded by plants and animals from Europe and elsewhere, pushing out native species and damaging habitats.

Many of the invaders are thought to have arrived by ship, sucked up from their native homes as ballast, to be discharged later into the water and estuaries of Canada and the United States. Other invaders have also come in ships, but as rock and sand ballasts.

An estimated 136 alien plants and animals are now in the Great Lakes, with more than one-third of them having arrived in the past 30 years, an increase which coincides with the opening of the St Lawrence Seaway, according to a report by the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Native animals and plants have already been victims of pollution from man-made chemicals dumped in the waters by lakeside factories and chemical plants. In Lake Ontario fishermen go armed with books that detail the age of species, such as lake trout, based on their size. If the fish caught is over a certain age, it is either thrown back or put out with the rubbish at home; the catch is calculated to have built up unhealthy amounts of metals and other potentially poisonous pollutants in its system.

Added to such man-made prob-

lems, some scientists fear that the arrival and consolidation of the alien life forms, which have few or no natural predators in their new home, could further push many native creatures to the brink of extinction.

The most widely-publicised invader is the European zebra mussel, *Dreissena polymorpha*, which is believed to have been dumped by an unidentified vessel into Lake St Clair in 1986.

Since then, the mussels, which are 1 in long, have colonised thousands of miles of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, even as far as the Hudson, Susquehanna and Mississippi rivers, killing native clams and crayfish, often by suffocation.

Controlling the spread, a job currently being undertaken by the United States fish and wildlife service, is expected to cost £2.6 billion over ten years.

Now a new mussel threat has been identified in Lake Ontario by scientists at Cornell University's biological field station in Bridgeport, New York. Specimens were first trawled up from deep waters of the lake's southern basin in 1990, but were dismissed as being deformed zebra mussels.

However, studies in the Erie Canal prompted scientists to take a longer look and they have concluded that the bivalve is a different, alien species. This has been con-

firmed by genetic tests. It has been christened "quagga", after an extinct relative of the zebra mussel.

Studies undertaken in June have found quaggas, which can be 20 to 50 per cent bigger than zebras, living in large numbers among zebra mussels, a life-style which has been observed in the Black Sea and which offers clues to the origin of the ship which brought them to the walleye.

The success of the alien, which at 5 in long is considered too small to be of interest to fishermen, is believed to be linked with its early maturity and ability to spawn in a variety of conditions.

Bivalves are not the only threat to the natural wildlife of the Great Lakes. Scientists are also becoming worried about an alien fish called the ruffe, *Cymothoerus cernuus*, which is a member of the perch family and was first seen in 1987 in the St Louis estuary of western Lake Superior, near Duluth-Superior harbour, the second busiest port of the Great Lakes.

According to a report in the magazine *Science News*, the fish is

an aggressive competitor that tends to dominate any ecosystem it enters.

Nearly two million are believed to be now spawning in the estuary and ruffe have been found in Thunder Bay, Lake Ontario, and parts of the St Louis River, where their arrival has been accompanied by a fall in species such as the walleye.

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A nother unwelcome immigrant is the spiny water flea. This tiny insect, believed to have been brought over in the ballast of a Soviet tanker, arrived in Lake Huron in 1984 and has subse-

quently moved into lakes Erie, Ontario, Michigan and Superior.

The flea, *Bythotrephes cederstroemi*, likes to feed on a microscopic crustacean, *Daphnia*, which itself feeds on algae. What concerns the researchers is that *Daphnia* represents an important source of food for small native fish, which could disappear if the flea eats too many crustaceans.

Studies have found that this may already be happening, with some populations of *Daphnia* having decreased since the flea's arrival.

Not all alien life forms have been brought by ship. Oriental weatherfish, *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*, are believed to have escaped from an aquarium wholesaler into a river which drains into Lake Huron. The Eurasian milfoil, a plant used in aquaria, got into the Great Lakes as long ago as 1880. Now it is pushing out native

plants and clogging up waterways. The purple loosestrife, *Lysimachia salicaria*, which is damaging important wetland habitat and has pushed out canals, could have arrived from Europe as a garden plant or possibly with imported sheep a century ago.

Nevertheless, the recent arrivals and their potential for widespread ecosystem damage has prompted the authorities to act. From November, transoceanic ships will be required to unload fresh water ballast and take on sea water before going into the Great Lakes. The US coastguard is calling for a voluntary scheme to operate nationwide.

Concern for the Great Lakes has also prompted Congress to order the National Biological Invasions Shipping Study, which will try to calculate the amount and source of ballast entering fresh waters throughout the United States.

HANK MORGAN/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY



Current research: Professor Russ Davis (left) looks on as an assistant assembles an ALACE probe

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**ALACE** (Autonomous Lagrangian Circulation Explorer), one of 100 similar probes launched since 1990 that report back to their creator once every two weeks. Together they are giving Professor Davis, an oceanographer at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, insights into the currents that drive the oceans deep beneath the waves.

The circulation of the oceans is intimately linked to the Earth's climate, distributing the sun's heat around the globe. Yet for years scientists have known little about these currents, especially those beneath the surface.

The first attempt to map them, made in the 1950s, involved dropping probes from ships and tying

them to the bottom. This proved hopelessly expensive. It became obvious that the probes had to be capable of looking after themselves.

Starting in the early 1980s, it took Professor Davis and his colleagues ten years to crack the problem: "What took longest was trying to generate the energy for going up and down for a long time," Professor Davis says.

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# Bidding for a better address

**Repossessed property is often a bargain. Rachel Kelly reports on how to find the best buys at estate agents and auctions**

The tales of woe are now familiar. Last week, it was the turn of businessman Stephen Ensor and his wife, who looked on as bailiffs changed the locks on their eight-bedroom, £350,000-Georgian mansion at Bembridge, Isle of Wight. The house, like 35,750 others in the first six months of the year, was repossessed. Mr and Mrs Ensor and their children had to move into one room at a council-owned hostel used by 11 other dispossessed families.

One family's tragedy, however, could soon become another family's new home. The trade in repossessed properties is brisk, the bargains plentiful and the choice wide-ranging. The property market is under the hammer. The only problem is, where?

Lancashire and Leicestershire could be the counties for house-hunters to start looking for the best bargains. An analysis of figures from the Lord Chancellor's department last week by Roof magazine, published by the housing pressure group Shelter, showed that the trend in repossession was up 30 per cent in Leicestershire and 14 per cent in Lancashire.

Lenders aim to sell through estate agents without drawing undue attention to the fact that the sale is by order of the mortgagees in possession. By law, lenders are obliged to realise the highest price available for such property. Highlighting its repossessed provenance could prejudice buyers who may think they can beat down prices, or dissuade the squeamish who are

sensitive to the idea that they are capitalising on the misery of others. Fear of visits from bailiffs in pursuit of unpaid bills also deters some buyers. The financial complications arising from living in a repossessed property can be far-reaching. An initial credit-card application, for example, is likely to be denied because of the address.

Nationwide Building Society, the country's second biggest lender, is typical in its approach to disposing of repossessed property. The society tends to sell such homes through a local branch of its own chain of estate agents. Halifax Building Society also has its own estate agents, and many of the other big lenders have links with particular estate-agency chains.

The price at which a repossessed home is put on the market is a mean of the lender's and the estate agent's separate valuations. The marketing is in the hands of the estate agents, but most lenders insist on the use of standard marketing tools: the property should be advertised in the local press using a colour photograph of a certain size, and the sale board should be of certain dimensions.

Lenders usually review pricing with their estate agents at monthly progress meetings. The desire to sell often to pocket mortgage

indemnity policies taken out to insure against loan losses, is weighed against the attempt to achieve the highest price.

Even if buyers ask, Nationwide asks its agents not to tell buyers that a house has been repossessed. "We don't instruct agents to market it as a repossessed property," Rosemary Callendar of Nationwide says.

Many of the enquiries received by Nationwide from buyers are for

achieved are usually lower than those reached through estate agents, although the speed of exchange attracts buyers. "We only auction repossessed property when we can't sell it in the normal way. We tend to use auctions for properties which have problems either structural ones, or legal ones with leases," Ms Callendar says.

The room in repossessions sales has led to a mini-boom in financial advisers, who will guide the tentative buyer through a purchase. Garway Auction Consultancy, for example, was set up earlier this year to help buyers through auctions and provides clients with a list of properties about to go under the hammer.

Speed is vital. Most auction houses issue catalogues weeks before the actual sale. Prospective buyers should check local newspapers for forthcoming auctions and phone around the big auctioneers — Allsop & Co, G.A. Property Services, Stirk & Kent, Ellis & Co — to be put on their mailing lists. In addition, Faxwise can provide a list of all properties already offered which has failed to meet its reserve but can still be bought up after the auction.

Before you put up your hand to buy, your finance must be in place, your solicitor should have checked the lease, and the survey should be done.

Repossessions offer the best value of sum expended to be bid at the end of the day.

Garway's Roger Garway said marketing, events and the sale of auction places are popular at Winkworth, but a three-bed, two-bathroom semi-detached bungalow at an auction in a rural part of the Midhurst area of West Sussex near Tadridge, Kent, is待售.

"You should be prepared to put yourself out in the car before the auction," he says. "It has to prove to the court of law and the documents at my bidding room and my lawyer's office will be involved. But you need to be hand-delivered."

Mr Ray Williams, director of Hubbards Estate Agents in Rotherham, Kent, who advises buyers on such a deal, says his agent was paid a fee by Mr. Callendar's lender, Yorkshire Building Society, for arranging the £8,000 cash injection on the flat. A survey carried out by the lender proved that the property was in good condition and the money was well used.

Budding started at £43,000, but there was no interest at that price and Mr. Williams' agent bought the flat for £35,000. "I would never open the bidding," he says. "You'd want to end up paying more others, and you should always have a ceiling. Mine was £43,000."

After a £10,000 deposit, the property, situated in a quiet residential area of Rotherham, was sold for £37,500. Tel 0114 273 3700. Fax 0114 273 3701. E-mail: [R.Williams@compuserve.com](mailto:R.Williams@compuserve.com)



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## BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (49404) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (61626715)  
 9.05 Defenders of the Earth. Space age cartoon (6706978) 9.25 Why Don't You...? Make a water bomb, cook cheese straws and learn to be a clown (r) (s) (4923688)  
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (6380171) 10.05 Playdays (r) (s) (6172626) 10.25 Double Dare. Game show (r) (s) (3904423)  
 10.45 The O-Zone. Pop game (s) (6526888)  
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (1684208) 11.05 The Flying Doctors. Australian drama series (r). (Ceefax) (s) (6279862) 11.50 National Trust Gardens. A visit to Ickworth House, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk (r) (s) (4923593)  
 12.00 News, regional news and weather (7681794) 12.05 Summer Scene. Linda Mitchell and Caron Keating present the daily magazine programme from Ebbw Vale (5942065) 12.55 Regional News and weather (2054510)  
 1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (59510)  
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (4387436)  
 1.50 Eldorado. Monday evening's episode (r). (Ceefax) (s) (61714607)  
 2.20 Over My Dead Body. Orbits and Pieces. American crime drama series starring Edward Woodward (r) (s) (3294046)  
 3.05 Antiques Roadshow. The team visits York (r). (Ceefax) (6591510)  
 3.50 Bugs Bunny. Triple-Bill. Cartoon adventures (1391997)  
 4.10 Children's ITV: Attack of the Killer Tomatoes. Fantasy cartoon series (r) (s) (14552794) 4.25 Tricky Business. Children's comedy series (r). (Ceefax) (6020336) 5.00 Newsround (5903046) 5.10 Five Children and It. Lasi in the six-part adaptation of E. Nesbit's classic story (r). (Ceefax) (s) (9040978)  
 5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (6564421). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster  
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (881)  
 6.30 Regional news magazines (133). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s)  
 7.00 Eldorado. (Ceefax) (s) (32491)



Definitely not retiring: Thora Hird, Lynn Redgrave (7.30pm)

7.30 Fighting Back: Thora Hird  
 ● CHOICE: Thora Hird would probably not thank you for saying she was wonderful for her age but she is still very much alive and even more so when you discover that for 30 years she has lived with crippling and intensely painful arthritis. But she has carried on almost regardless, hosting *Praise Be*, doing plays for Alan Bennett and forming part of that formidable team of impious women in *The Last of the Summer Wine*. She is 81, has had three hip operations and may be heading for a fourth, and has no intention of retiring. Interviewed by Lynn Redgrave, who has only to offer the merest prompt, Hird gives a performance so self-effacing and so immaculate in its comic timing that age and disability become almost a matter for celebration. No doubt that people are already queuing up to book her for 1993. (Ceefax) (s) (317)

8.00 Casualty: Cascade. From the second episode from the last series of this hospital drama, Beth's (Marta Kaas) leaving party is disrupted when a plane full of holidaymakers runs into trouble. With Derek Thompson and Cathy Shipton (r). (Ceefax) (s) (844243)

8.50 Points of View. Anna Robinson presents viewers' comments on BBC television programmes (s) (935882)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (1626)

9.30 Cross of Fire. Continuing the mini series about the trial of D.C. Stephenson, the leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana. Starring John Heard and Mel Harris. (Ceefax) (s) (94297)

11.05 Film: *Fran* (1985). Downbeat Australian drama about a deserted mother of three, whose unorthodox and promiscuous lifestyle leads to conflict with the authorities. Starring Noni Hazlehurst and Anne Byron. Directed by Glenda Hamby (962046)

12.40am Weather (8885027)

## BBC2

6.45-7.10 Open University. Data Models and Data Bases (5253317)  
 8.00 Breakfast News (3049404) 8.15 Bitten By the Bug (r) (s) (3062355)  
 8.30 Women of Our Century. Miriam Rothschild (r) (s) (87930)  
 9.00 Film: London Melody (1937, b/w). Jolly romantic musical about an Italian diplomat who anonymously helps a Cockney street singer to become a star in the London theatre. Starring Anna Neagle and Tullio Camminati. Directed by Herbert Wilcox (6095591)  
 10.10 Film: Hamlet (1948, b/w)  
 ● CHOICE: Laurence Olivier called his second Shakespeare film (after the rousing *Henry V*) "the tragedy of a man who could not make up his mind". It is a neat phrase to sum up a complex drama, here somewhat pruned to keep within a running time of two and a half hours. Contemporary reactions were mixed. Olivier the actor, a prince with striking blond hair, went on to win an Oscar. Olivier the director was attacked by Richard Winnington, a respected critic of the day, for visual trickery and an inability to make the film flow. Certainly, there seems a contradiction between the theatricality of the sets and costumes and cinematic devices such as tracking shots and deep focus. But it is a bold, accessible and atmospheric piece, with Olivier strongly supported by Eileen Herlie and Basil Sydney (king and queen) and Jean Simmons' Ophelia (49737959).

12.40 In the Making: Cook. The head chef of a hotel (r) (4250317)  
 1.00 After Hours. American entertainment magazine (62142249)  
 1.20 Forget-Me-Not Farm. Children's cartoon (s) (36963131)  
 1.35 Swim Novices. Tips on swimming (r) (s) (61795572)  
 2.00 News and weather (95585510) followed by *Safes as Houses?* The housing crisis (r) (26957442) 2.35 Countryfile (r) (9150591)  
 3.00 News and weather (4377591) followed by *All Our Children*. Dame Judi Dench narrates the story of the expectations of six babies around the world (r). (Ceefax) (6595912) 3.50 News and weather, regional news and weather (5933065)  
 4.00 Craftsmen. Film animator Bob Godfrey (r) (s) (684249)  
 4.15 Film: Artists and Models (1955). Frantic comedy starring Dean Martin as an artist whose comic strips are based on Jerry Lewis's top-secret nightmares. With Shirley MacLaine and Dorothy Malone. Directed by Frank Tashlin (97094423)  
 6.00 Star Trek: The Man Trap. The first episode of the cult sixties intergalactic series. Captain Kirk and the crew of the Starship Enterprise have to outwit a deadly chameleon-like monster. Starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy (r). (Ceefax) (741881)  
 6.30 Def It: Teenage Diaries — Julie Through the Looking Glass. A revealing and often disturbing video self-portrait by anorexic teenager Julie (r) (32849)



Standard bearer: Yuri Temirkanov conducts (7.30pm)

7.30 Live From the Proms  
 ● CHOICE: As a useful interval film points out, the St Petersburg Philharmonic has always managed to reflect the history of its country. It was formed in 1882 as the court orchestra of the Tsar and required to play for state occasions. After the communist revolution it was charged with the task of bringing cultural enlightenment to the masses and for half a century was ruled with Stalinist severity by the conductor Yevgeny Mravinsky. Yuri Temirkanov, who took over the baton just before communism collapsed, sees the orchestra as a standard-bearer for the new Russian democracy. In tonight's Prom, broadcast live from the Albert Hall, Temirkanov conducts a programme of Berlioz (*The Corsair* overture), Sibelius (*Von Wolken* Concerto), with Maxim Vengerov and, after the break, Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony (s) (3923152)

9.45 ScreenPlay Firsts: Through an Open Window (b/w). The American film maker Eric Mendelsohn wrote and directed this short film about a housewife who fears a bird has entered her house. With Anna Meira (732978)

10.10 Colour TV. The Impact of the colour white (r) (s) (233317)  
 10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (486605)  
 11.15 Edinburgh Nights. The British concert debut of Edinburgh-born Donald Runnicles who conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (s) (158572) 11.35 Weather (268626)

12.00 Open University. Changing Voices (39244). Ends at 12.30am

12.00 Twice Upon a Time (1983) Animation (17268)  
 2.00 Newsround (1983) 2.00 Teacher (1981) 2.30 Doctor, Doctor (7881) 2.30 Working It Out (1981) 2.30 Lucy (1981) 2.30 Little Bit of Heaven (as 10am) 6.00 The Little Bit of Heaven (r) (s) (20055)  
 6.30 McHale's Navy (1962) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1973) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1987) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1991) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1992) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1993) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1994) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1995) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1996) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1997) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1998) 6.30 McHale's Navy (1999) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2000) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2001) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2002) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2003) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2004) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2005) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2006) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2007) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2008) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2009) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2010) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2011) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2012) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2013) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2014) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2015) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2016) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2017) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2018) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2019) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2020) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2021) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2022) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2023) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2024) 6.30 McHale's Navy (2025) 6.30 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